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Mega Event in the 5 000-year-long History of Korea



ON JULY 4 LAST THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S Republic of Korea (DPRK) successfully carried out the test-fire of intercontinental ballistic rocket Hwasong 14. The country has already acquired A-bombs and H-bombs, and the success in the test-fire of the intercontinental ballistic rocket capable of carrying a large-sized heavy-duty nuclear warhead can be said to be a mega event that marked the passing of the final gate to the nation's perfect nuclear force. Especially, it means that the country, which has always been exposed to the US's nuclear threat and blackmail, has attained a sure guarantee to check the latter's nuclear strike and menace and safeguard the destiny of the nation and the regional peace. In conclusion, Korea's nuclear possession and consolidation is an inevitable consequence of the US's nuclear blackmail and hostile policy toward the country.

In September 1945 the US occupied the southern half of Korea in the guise of "liberator." While watching for a chance to conquer the whole of Korea which is located in the position of great strategic importance in Northeast Asia, the US incited the Syngman Rhee puppet clique in south Korea to ignite a war of aggression against the DPRK on June 25, 1950. This was the start of the US's tenacious and all-out nuclear threat against the DPRK which is unprecedented in the world history. When the situation of the [Korean] war changed unfavourably for the Americans, the then US President Truman openly mentioned the possible use of A-bombs, and MacArthur, Commander of the US Armed Forces in the Far East, overtly spoke of the "plan to drop 30-50 atomic bombs along the border between north Korea and China." At ►

that time Pentagon carried out 65 field tests at a nuclear testing ground in Utah until 1952 in an attempt to examine and verify the possibility of using A-bombs.

After the war the US, asserting that it had suffered defeat in the Korean war because it had not used A-bombs, drew up a reckless plan of using nuclear weapons against the DPRK in case another Korean war broke out. Later, in July 1957, it announced publicly that it would start equipping its forces in south Korea with nuclear armament, and it hastened the advance deployment of nuclear weapons, turning south Korea into the largest nuclear magazine in the Far East. Besides, it caused a number of grave provocative incidents like the *USS Pueblo* incident and the large spy plane *EC-121* incident in the 1960s, and the Panmunjom incident in the 1970s. While clamouring for "retaliation" for those incidents the US deployed huge nuclear striking forces in and around south Korea, amplifying the nuclear blackmail and threat. It has since waged all sorts of nuclear war exercises against the DPRK, bringing open intimidation.

The administrations have changed several times in the US, but the hostile policy towards the DPRK and the plan of nuclear attack on the DPRK have become more and more offensive. More than that, scenarios aiming at "removal of the leadership" and overthrow of the system have been mapped out one after another which were applied in actual war drills. This year, too, the US mobilized aggression forces and strategic nuclear means including nuclear bombers and nuclear-powered carrier flotillas which are enough to carry out a war, and frantically conducted joint military rehearsals aiming at the pre-emptive nuclear strike against Korea. After the war exercises it has kept a large-scale nuclear force in and around south Korea, driving the situation to the brink of war.

To the US peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula can be said to be the most unwanted scenario. Commenting on this, a foreign political commentator disclosed that "if the tension is removed in the region of the Korean peninsula, the powerful leverage to press on Russia and China will automatically disappear." Actually, if the wall of Cold War collapses in the Korean peninsula, the justification for GI's occupation of south Korea will lose its validity, and the US will also lose the bridgehead of aggression on the Asian continent. This will result in the reduction of Japan and south Korea's dependence on the US so that the American strategy of supremacy over the Asia-Pacific region cannot escape the total failure. For this reason, the US is making a desperate attempt to justify its military build-up and war rackets in south Korea and its vicinity by means of aggravating the situation in the Korean peninsula and to stifle the DPRK to make the whole Korean peninsula into its outpost for aggression on the Asian continent.

Recently the United States is deploying in south Korea THAAD, a high-altitude missile interception system targeting China and Russia, and accelerating the establishment of the tripartite military alliance of the US, Japan and south Korea for the aforesaid purpose. As a result, the DPRK had no other choice than to choose the road of nuclear possession in order to safeguard the destiny of the











Service personnel and citizens of Pyongyang hold a joint rally in celebration of the successful test-fire of an intercontinental ballistic rocket in July 2017.

nation and its sovereignty, and the peace in the region in view of the nuclear blackmail and threat from the US wanting to make the country a victim of its realization of world supremacy. In particular, the present reality when even big and nuclear powers are following the US while yielding to its nuclear blackmail has further convinced the DPRK that the only strength that will make it possible to avoid nuclear holocaust and ensure peace in the region relies on its own strong military power centred on the nuclear force, propelling the country toward completion of nuclear forces.

Now the US is absurdly describing the DPRK's nuclear deterrent as "threat to peace," asserting that it cannot admit the latter as a nuclear state and that Korea should come to the table of dialogue on the precondition of its "complete abandonment of nuclear programme." For the purpose the US is making every possible effort to degrade the DPRK's comprehensive national power and effect the latter's "renunciation of nuclear weapons." However, it is a solid standpoint and will of Korea neither to put its nukes and ballistic rockets on the negotiating table in any case nor to flinch even an inch from the course of bolstering its nuclear force it chose unless the US hostile policy and nuclear threat to the country are definitely terminated. Actually, the DPRK is springing up into a powerful nuclear state that is able to destroy the US.

On February 1 last a report which stipulated the DPRK as the country near to the top of the list of evil dreams of the US was presented to the US Congress, and some time ago the Secretary of Defense, talking about the matter of consecutive launch of strategic rockets in the DPRK, predicted that the war with north Korea will cause the worst disaster in his life. The political contradiction and recklessness of the US lies in its resorting to stereotyped anti-DPRK hostile policy and nuclear blackmail, when it is making a fuss about the latter's evergrowing threat, which is the reaction to the threat from the US.

The DPRK has often advised Washington not to behave foolishly. It is a due result that the US received the most unpleasant "gift" from the DPRK on its Independence Day—the test-fire of intercontinental ballistic rocket Hwasong 14.

Kim Il Bong

Pyongyang citizens warmly welcome those who participated in the successful test-fire of an intercontinental ballistic rocket.





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Photo by Ra Phyong Ryol



Back Cover: Firework display on July 6, 2017

Photo by courtesy of the KCNA

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Socialist Education System

ALL THE KOREAN PEOPLE ARE ENTITLED to learn as much as they want. Their desire for learning is fully met thanks to the socialist education system—the system of free compulsory education.

Universal 11-year Compulsory Education

Korea's universal 11-year compulsory education system was aimed at providing comprehensive, general education up to secondary schooling for all children until they reached the working age. It consisted of a one-year compulsory preschool course and compulsory 10-year schooling. This was implemented through the senior kindergarten class, the 4-year primary schooling and the 6-year secondary schooling for children aged 5-16.



In a short period of time after Korea's liberation from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation, Kim Il Sung, leader of the new Korea, saw to it that a well-regulated democratic education system was established through construction of schools at all levels from primary schools to colleges across the country. On the basis of this he made sure that universal compulsory education was enforced stage by stage as the revolution and construction made progress and the economic foundation of the country strengthened. As a result, universal, compulsory primary education was enforced in 1956, universal, compulsory secondary education in 1958 and universal 9-year compulsory technical education in 1967.

After the establishment of a socialist system in the country, in particular, the leader thought deeply about how education should be done—its direction, principle, content and method—and how the educa- ►

Children enter school on the first day of a new school year when the universal 12-year compulsory education is enforced fully.



tion system should be developed in order for education to make an effective contribution to the cause of socialist construction. His idea was to make it possible for all people to get education throughout their life and develop all members of society into intellectuals with knowledge of university graduate's level. So he set about making preparations to enforce new compulsory education of a higher level on the basis of achievements in the previously enforced universal 9-year compulsory technical education. He actively explored the way to solve such problems as lengthening the period of the compulsory education, organizing the necessary education system, determining the content of the education, building up the ranks of teachers, and providing educational conditions and equipment, and meticulously led the relevant work.

In order to determine how old children should be to get school education, Kim Il Sung took a measure to set trial classes in schools in towns, workers' districts, and flat and mountainous areas, and then examined for several years how the classes were working. One day late in September 1971, a year after he arranged the trial education course, he summoned over 50 teachers in charge of the trial classes to have a consultation. After warmly receiving them, he looked through mother tongue and maths notebooks and examination papers they had brought from the children who entered school at the age of 6, and listened to what they said about the process of the trial education. And he asked in detail about the distance the children had to walk to go to school and the educational conditions of schools in mountainous areas.

On September 1, 1972 he visited Taedongmun Primary School in Pyongyang. Congratulating the children for being the first to get the 11-year compulsory education, he assessed their preparation for learning and their health conditions and attire, and estimated their intellectual standard again. Then he entered some classrooms where there were children who had spent one or two years learning in the trial classes. He understood how good they had been at studies, how much they had grown and how they were participating in the organizational life of the Children's Union, and what else—all in detail. In the course of this he confirmed that the age of six could be defined as school age, and he saw to it that the new compulsory education was completely enforced from September 1, 1975. On the day he visited Pyongyang Changjon Primary School. After meeting children, he had a talk with teachers there. Speaking of the great significance of the enforcement of the universal 11-year compulsory education, he put forward the task to improve the superior education system.

The complete enforcement of the universal 11-year compulsory education meant the development of the socialist education system of the country up to a higher stage, making it possible for all children to grow as well-qualified revolutionaries equipped with the essentials of the revolutionary world outlook and possessed of complete knowledge of the general secondary school level, more than one technical skill, strong bodies and fine cultural attainments while getting regular schooling until they got old enough to work.

In his classic work ***Theses on Socialist Education*** published in September 1977 Kim Il Sung put forward the goal of enforcing compulsory higher education in the future to attain the target of intellectualization of the whole society on the basis of consolidating the universal 11-year compulsory education. And he wisely led the relevant work.

Universal 12-year Compulsory Education

In September 2012 the 6th Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly adopted the law on enforcing universal 12-year compulsory education as required by the developing times and revolution.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un, who carries on the education ideas of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, published in August 2014 the immortal classic work ***Let Us Glorify Ours as the Country of Education and a Power of Talents by Bringing About a Revolution in Education in the New Century***.

The Supreme Leader clarified in detail tasks and ways to carry out the revolution in education, and energetically led the effort to enforce the universal 12-year compulsory education. He solved the problem of paper needed for production of textbooks and had all schoolchildren provided with school uniforms fit for different schools and sexes and the relevant season. Under his care and guidance the Mindulle Notebook Factory and the Pyongyang Bag Factory were erected with modern equipment while baby homes, primary and secondary schools for orphans, schoolchildren's palaces and children's camps were







Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace, an extracurricular education centre.

built across the country.

True to the Supreme Leader's lofty intention, all the Party, State and people pushed ahead with the effort to enforce the new education system.

Specific projects were carried out including correct determination of the ultimate goal of the education and the criteria of attainment for different schools and different subjects of study. Meanwhile efforts were made to improve educational conditions and environments. As a result, the new education was comprehensively enforced across the country on April 1 this year, on the occasion of the new school year.

Now projects are under way to bring about a revolution in the sector of education now that the new education system is in operation. A shortcut is being paved to realization of the goal of making all the people well versed in science and technology and creating a talented nation.

The education system is getting more perfect. Efforts are made to enhance the level of education at senior middle technical schools, which is a new mode of education in the country, and gradually expand the kind and number of such schools, and education at schools is closely combined with education and edification at extracurricular centres. And the distance-education system for refresher courses is being completed, and the distance education for correspondence courses in the teacher training sector is further developing.

The sector of primary and secondary education is radically improving the contents, forms and methods of education, and efforts are made to renovate educational conditions and environments for the purpose of raising the material and technical foundation for education up to the world standard, and establish the habit of giving top priority to the sector of education.

The country is now steadily improving the quality of education while consolidating the success in the enforcement of the new education system.

Ri Kyong Sim

Out of Love for Rising Generation and Future

Kim Il Sung's Outlook on Happiness

IN HIS REMINISCENCES ***With the Century*** President Kim Il Sung wrote:

"If anyone asks me when I am most happy and joyful, I will respond: '...It gives me particular pleasure or happiness to be among the people, discover amongst them excellent people who can set an example for the whole country and debate state affairs, their living and our future.

"'It also gives me great happiness to be among the children, we call the flower buds of the country.'

"I can say that this is my lifelong view of happiness."

One day early in December 1969, at the 20th Enlarged Plenary Meeting of the Fourth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) held in the presence of the President the headmaster of the then Pyongyang Raengchon Middle School talked about how his school had given education to students so that they would become able pillars who would make contributions to the socialist construction and defence up-building, on the socialist education principle. It was an incoherent talk, but the President attentively listened, sometimes asking questions, writing down in his notebook what he replied, and kindheartedly leading him to tell all about whatever he had on his mind. Very glad to hear that his school had its students regularly go running and climbing Munsu Hill, taking it into account that their country is mountainous, the President highly appreciated his words before saying joyfully that since their country is mountainous, the students should be trained for mountaineering, that is, conquering mountains. Adding that he had given an instruction to build a camp for students of Pyongyang in Mt. Myohyang, the President said that the speaker's school's students would also go to the mountain to get training for mountain-climbing while enjoying camping for 10 or 15 days. And he stressed that the camp for the students of the city should be built as soon as possible as decided by the Political Committee of the WPK Central Committee so as to enable the students to go camping there. Then the President gave the officials concerned the task of pushing ahead with the project in a responsible manner.

When the headmaster suggested building a swimming pool, the President generously accepted his idea and told officials to take measures to build three or four swimming pools for students of Pyongyang on the Taedong riverside as the headmaster proposed. The President went on to say that when schools were to be built in the city the projects must include the construction of swimming pools for the schools, and that since the country is surrounded by the sea on three sides and is rich in rivers and streams, children should be taught to swim from their primary school days so as to be able to conquer the sea in future.

At the meeting the President intensified the discussion on education with the emphasis on ideas he had harboured, confirming the validity of the ideas once again. Next day, he concluded the meeting with his speech entitled ***Some Questions on Communist Education of Youths and Children***.

Bridge for Children

In Chogyo-ri, Unchon County, at the foot of Mt. Kuwol there is a hamlet called *Kusokmol*. Usually such a mountain village has a small stone or wooden bridge. But a strong, wide concrete bridge spans the Sujong Stream in the village. The bridge is as beautiful as a rainbow, and the villagers named it Bridge of Love. This bridge is associated with the fol- ▸

► lowing story.

One morning in late December 1973 when the snow was falling in large flakes, children of the village were going to school as usual. When they reached the aforesaid stream after crossing the Jinju Pass, they saw some cars coming which were rarely seen in the mountain area. They soon crossed the stream by the stepping-stones and stepped aside from the road. The cars ran up to them before they knew. The great leader Kim Jong Il got out of a car and asked the children where they were going casting an affectionate glance at them. Hearing that they were going to school, Kim Jong Il continued to ask which school they were attending and what grade they were in. They replied that they were third-graders of the primary course of the then Chogyo Senior Middle School.

Now the leader asked, **"So you have to cross the stepping-stones to go to school every day, don't you?"** They answered yes. He fell into a thought for a while. Then, looking at them with anxiety, he asked them how they crossed the stream when it rose in summer. Their parents and seniors at the middle course carried them on their backs across the stream, they replied.

"On their backs?" he wondered. For a good while, he looked at the pass they crossed and the stream running in twists and loops.

Later that day the leader said that it must be quite inconvenient for the little children to cross the stream by the stepping stones to go to school, and he proposed building a bridge for them. One of the officials accompanying him told him that there were only 11 children who crossed the stream to go to school. The leader insisted that they should build a bridge there even for one or two children. **"How could we take into account children, treasure of our country, only by number? Let's take an immediate measure to build a wide and nice bridge for the children,"** he said.

This is how the bridge was built across the stream for the 11 children.

The bridge made it possible for the children to go to school, singing songs of joy and happiness, without being affected by the rushing water from the 99 curves of Mt. Kuwol in the rainy season and the snowdrift formed overnight on the stream by the West Sea wind in winter notorious for its violence.

Supreme Leader's Pleasure

One December day in 2014 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un visited the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill. Pledging to make sure for the Party to take the full responsibility for the supply of school uniforms, footwear, school things and bags to children, he instructed the factory managers to newly establish a modern satchel canvas production process.

Later he was very glad to see varieties of schoolbags made of the canvas manufactured by the mill. Like a mother who is concerned about her children's schoolbag, he, on many occasions, gave meticulous instructions relating to such matters as diversification of styles of schoolbags, stuffing of the shoulder strap with more sponge layers lest the users should feel pain on the shoulders, and obtaining of minor materials for making bags.

In January last the Supreme Leader visited the newly built Pyongyang Bag Factory as his first field guidance this year. The factory was producing varieties of quality bags at that time. Looking round workshops with joy, the Supreme Leader praised the factory for making nice bags of various styles and colours to suit the tastes, likings and aesthetic senses of preschool children and schoolchildren using domestically produced canvas and minor materials. He went on to say with pleasure that though it was not long after its construction the bag factory had already produced a large number of bags. He was quite happy that they were now able to provide children and other people with bags produced by themselves at their own factory with their country's own raw and other materials. He said full of joy that he would remember that day when he felt as if he were in a wonderland. ❑

Bright Future

THEY SAY THE FUTURE of a country depends on its children. Children are the icon of the future of the country. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has recently achieved a lot in education of the rising generation by reconstructing a lot of schools and universities and introducing modern educational facilities and methods. Ryomyong Primary School in Taesong District can be cited as an epitome.

Gardeners of Future

Primary school days, when people start to develop their intellectual faculties and cultivate the bud of their talent, constitute an important part of their life. Thus, teachers who are in direct charge of education of pupils are often likened to gardeners of flowers.

You should be an excellent gardener—this is the creed of the teachers of Ryomyong Primary School. They devote all their efforts and enthusiasm to the work of finding out the pupils' aptitude and talent and improving educational methods and content to suit their psychological features. All of them spend every minute ▸







after school studying how to improve teaching methods while exerting themselves to enhance their ability in accordance with the developing times.

The school has created dozens of experimental apparatuses and teaching aids including a mosaic map puzzle and an electric balance. By making effective use of walls of corridors and classrooms, it set up educational pictures suited to the pupils' minds. Recently it made dozens of electronic visual aids and multimedia programs and applied them to educational practice. Meanwhile, it established a perfect teaching system based on an intranet, thus laying a firm foundation to develop the educational work as required by the IT era.

Hong Kwang Ok, headmistress of the school, says, "I think it needs a lot of efforts to rear young pupils who have a poor outlook on the world. As a song goes *lest he gets wet, lest he gets cold*, it is hardly possible to cultivate beautiful flowers without devoted love and care. So I often tell teachers to become gardeners of the future."



Teachers work hard to improve the quality of visual education.

Where Hopes Bloom

Pupils of Ryomyong School, which always resounds with the sound of their reading, have great hopes.

Kim Kuk Bong from class 2-5 is nourishing a hope to be a famous football player while playing football with their friends in the school's playground with artificial grass.

Han Thae Ung from class 3-2 is proud of his two literary works he presented to Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. He says that he will be a poet who will praise the beauty of his country.

Kim Hyon Song from class 4-6 says, "I have a dream of being a scientist who develops everything. So I usually visit the natural science laboratory after school. It is part of my daily routine."

The pupils nurture fantastic dreams in the music and dance room with merry piano sounds, in the swimming pool with clear water, in the English lab, and in the IT-studying room. The school has created all environment and conditions for realizing their dreams and hopes. It occupies more than ten thousand square metres of area, consisting of two modern buildings, the aforesaid playground, a swimming pool and a studying park, over 40 classrooms and more than 10 study rooms.

Children's smiles and their beautiful hopes are symbols of happiness of their country. Smiles and hopes are valuable things that are vested in only those children who are the happiest in the world.

Choe Sol Mi







Able Architects Are Trained

THE PYONGYANG UNIVERsity of Architecture is a renowned university which trains experts in architecture. Especially, it is counted as one of those universities with the greatest number of applicants, for it has raised competent designers and architects. When I visited it, Hong Song Ryong, president of the university, said, "Architecture is a comprehensive art. Architectural designs comprehensively reflect the aspects of the social development and all intellectual faculty and creative thinking and ability of modern times. To put it on the highest possible level in a profound manner, what sort of ability should we have? This is what we teachers and students are keenly feeling witnessing the ever-changing reality of our country."

A few years ago the teachers of the university had a serious discussion to find out a rational method to bring up more well-versed architects. As the country's architectural art was rapidly developing in the new century, able architects were badly needed all across the country. Now the administrators of the university made efforts to find out weak points in education at that time and take measures to get it over.

At this juncture, in November 2013, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspected the university. Making the rounds of several places he saw the students' drawing practice and architectural designing, and said that they should study hard saving time and keeping in their mind that the future of a civilized nation is first planned on their designing board. The present time is calling for gifted designers and architects, he noted and set forth specific tasks and methods to bring about a radical turn in the work of training scientific and technical personnel. Then he stated he would be the honorary president of the university.

The Supreme Leader's inspection became a historic event that awakened the teachers and students of the university to their mission again. The teachers applied the 5-D designing program to all designing subjects and opened several new subjects while setting up some new courses. Their primary effort went to the work of combining theory and practice and developing a sustainable creative thinking faculty in the students. They organized visits to monumental edifices on a regular basis, and set every Friday as the day of creation, conducting it in real earnest. In the course of this, they created practical and superior teaching methods.

By virtue of the sincere efforts of the teachers the students acquired the sense of creative inspiration and the knowledge of de- ▸



Students endeavour to assimilate creative senses and knowledge of designing.





signing much earlier and courageously participated in architectural designing projects of national significance. They introduced latest science and technology into their designs so that the space of relevant projects could be used in a 3-D way and in good harmony with topographical and geographical features in consideration of the mission, nature and functional features of the projects. And they also ensured the principle of prioritizing convenience and aesthetic beauty in their designs.

They designed over a thousand and scores of major projects found across the country, including the fountain park in the April 25 House of Culture, the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery, the Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Sadong District, Pyongyang. In particular, they rendered service to the construction of Ryomyong Street featuring an energy-saving and green street. As the street pioneered a new phase in view of practical use, formation and artistic sense of architecture, it is called a model and standard of modern architecture. These days the university has produced Merited Scientists, professors and doctors as well as classes winning the certificate of the Student's Scientific Research Award, and won special prizes and top places at national architectural festivals and sci-tech festivals.



Teachers discuss methods of instruction to stimulate students' creative thinking.

Ri Chol Guk, a student of the university, says, "The future of a civilized socialist nation depends on us. With the consciousness that we should make a design of a civilized socialist nation we will study hard to become the people's architects who will be able to make designs national in style and socialist in content."

Rim Ok





The Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery and the Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm, Sadong District, Pyongyang, which were both designed by the students.

Home of Talents





SOME TIME AGO, I visited the Phyongsong Art School situated in Phyongsong City, South Phyongan Province, which is furnished well enough to be called model of provincial art school.

When I entered the school yard through the resting place and studying site lined with tall metasequpias, Song Yong Chol, headmaster of the school, welcomed me, saying, “Now a campaign of giving importance to and supporting the educational work is in full swing across the country. In this atmosphere we’ve achieved a lot by renovating educational conditions and living environment of our school.”

According to him, the school has four buildings for instruction that house more than 10 departments for 30 courses and an e-library with some reading rooms and a stack room. The school is also furnished with cultural and welfare facilities—a playground with 400 seats, a dormitory, a dining hall, a bath house and a barber shop for pupils.

When I entered Building No. 1, I was very surprised. I found the walls well built with various finishing materials and covered with different sorts of visual aids to suit the students’ psychology. It seemed as if I were in a museum. Yong Chol said, “Recently we furnished all our buildings like this. Everyone who visits our school says unanimously that it is quite clean, smart and unique.” Now he guided me to the administration department.

Ri Tong Chol who works at the administration department said, “In my school all the classrooms are connected by an intranet, so we can make real-time inspection of lectures at work. More than 30 multifunctional classrooms and over 20 modern rooms for practising special skills have been established, and a comprehensive system for administration of school affairs is in operation. So, the education has reached a higher scientific and IT standard.”

Hearing the students’ cheerful singing from the vocal music training room, I looked round the departments of fine arts and public speaking art before calling on students of the dancing department. When I was heading for another building, we heard a piece of music ringing to announce a break. It was a milk time for the students.

While I was passing the fourth-grade classroom of the primary school course, I saw a pupil tapping the desk drinking a cup of milk. Song told me that that was Ko Jong Song who was a piano prodigy of the school. Then we saw her play the piano in the piano practising room. Indeed, she was an excellent pianist. So Kyong Il, a piano instructor, said, “Every day we give special lessons to promising piano talents like Jong Song and give guidance for their after-school training for more than four hours.” And he added that they would have an artistic skill presentation in the afternoon.

On our way to the hall we met Kim Hyok, chief of the research and instruction guidance department, who said, “According to the school and individual plans, we conduct the work to improve the teachers’ qualifications and assess them at every Thursday meeting of the departments.” He continued that the level of the students’ ability depends on the teachers’ qualifications and ability, and that his school was directing a great effort to improving the teachers’ qualifications.

Hearing his words, we went over to the hall where the students were having a skill presentation.

Seeing the students develop their talent to their heart’s content, we felt pleased. Song said, “Many of the school graduates are playing a big role in art troupes like the Moranbong and Chongbong bands, and in their respective communities. In the future, too, we will further improve the educational condition and environment as well as educational methods to train excellent pupils in greater numbers.”

Seeing the bright future of the school in the students’ bright and cheerful activities I left the school.

Pak Un Yong

Twelve Diplomas

NOT LONG AGO A MATTER FOR congratulation happened to the family of Dr. and Prof. Kang Jin Jo, an 84-year-old researcher of the global environment information institute of the State Academy of Sciences. Kang's third grandson visited him at home with the news of his graduating from the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology with excellent marks. All members of the family gathered to congratulate the grandson. Kang was quite pleased. In a tone of excitement he said, "Now there are 12 university diplomas in our family. Our happiness today is thanks to the education system of our country."

Then he produced a faded picture he had had taken 62 years before as a souvenir of his graduation from Kim Il Sung University. An issue of *Rodong Sinmun*, the organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, carried an article titled *The 6th Graduation Ceremony of Kim Il Sung University* along with the picture of Kang and other students who had finished the university with full marks in all subjects.

Gazing at the significant picture, Kang recalled the past of his family with deep emotion.

During the Japanese imperialists' military occupation of Korea (1905–1945), his parents lived in poverty as tenants of a landlord in a mountain village in Nyongbyon County. Despite their miserable life under humiliation and insult, they made desperate efforts to support Jin Jo, their eldest son, through school. They did farming and his grandfather went fishing so as to pay for his schooling. Only after the country was liberated and a new people's government was established could the parents realize their dream of having their son get education as much as he wanted. Now that he was able to learn to his heart's content, Kang's dream became greater day after day. Whenever his villagers asked him about his hope he would reply with confidence, "I will go to Kim Il Sung University by doing well in my studies."

But the war (1950–1953) unleashed by the US imperialists cast a deep gloom over his hope. In 1951, however, when the war was at its height, he was enrolled at the university thanks to a measure taken by the State.

One day after he began to study at the temporary classrooms of the university based at the foot of a mountain in Paeksong-ri, Phyongsong City, South Phyongan Province (the then Paekjon-ri, Sunchon County), he unexpectedly had the great honour to meet Supreme Commander Kim Il Sung, who instructed the students to be enthusiastic in their studies the way they had been in battlefields, under the slogan "Studying is also a battle!" His instruction stimulated Kang to study hard day and night.

During the university days he even received uniforms, scholarships and whatever he needed for studies. At last he graduated from the university with good marks and started his worthwhile career as a researcher at the State Academy of Sciences. Lots of his valuable research results earned him the academic degree and title of Professor and Doctor. His wife, too, learned at the university.

After they had children and the children later began to go to school, the man and wife came to think a lot. The State made sure for not only the couple but also their four daughters to get education free of charge while being provided with school things and uniforms season after season. The Kangs were tearfully thankful. One day Jin Jo, helping the daughters shoulder their school bags, earnestly told them, "We have a good system and you can learn as much as you wish. I advise you to be good at your studies to go on to university. Then you'll become able to add glory to our country."

The daughters studied hard as wished by their parents, and they became university students in succession—the eldest at the then Pyongyang University of Construction and Building-Materials Industry, the second at the Phyongsong Teachers Training College, the third at Kim Hyong Jik University of Education and the fourth at the Phyongsong University of Coal-Mining Industry.

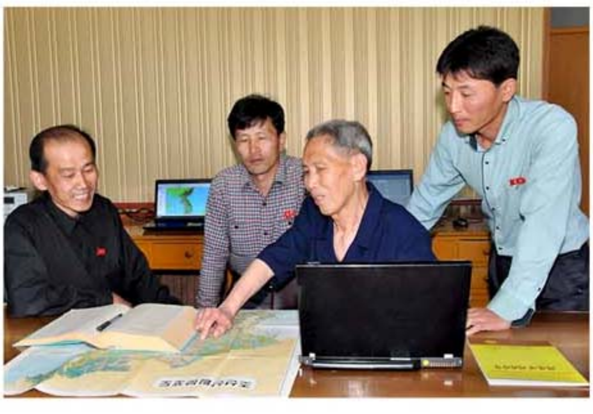
Later, whenever he saw his daughters work as teacher and researcher after their graduation from college, Kang found himself eager to marry his daughters to boys who learned at college.

Fortunately his desire came true, thus the number of university and college diplomas in his family increased. Then his grandchildren, too, went to college one after another. So the number of such diplomas in his family has grown to 12.

The elderly man often advises his children, "You should never regard your happiness as only natural. All of you should do much more good things for the sake of this benevolent system."

Pak Yong Il

Kang Jin Jo *(second right).*



Founder of New Korea



Service personnel, working people of all strata, young people and schoolchildren visit the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il.

THE KOREAN NATION HAS A HISTORY OF more than 5 000 years. The long national history, however, had never had a chapter dedicated to the working people until the national hero Kim Il Sung founded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Soon after its liberation (August 1945) from the Japanese imperialists' military occupation, Korea was in a very complicated and acute situation owing to the problem of its sovereignty. At the time the US imperialists, after occupying south Korea in the guise of "liberator," forcibly dissolved local people's committees and enforced military government. Then they attempted to rig up a separate regime in the south.

Considering the aggravated situation of south Korea where different isms and doctrines were rampant and the complex international situation, Kim Il Sung put forward a policy of establishing a people's government in the northern half of Korea without loss of time and took a positive measure for the people to establish local power organs by themselves in accordance with their unanimous will. As a result, people's committees appeared and started their activities in all provinces, cities, counties, subcounties and ris across the northern half of Korea in a short span of two or three months after liberation, followed by the establishment of the Provisional People's Committee of North Korea (PPCNK) in February 1946. This made it possible for the Korean people to become the true masters of the government for the first time in their history. As the task of the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution was successfully carried out the PPCNK strengthened and developed into the People's Committee of North Korea (PCNK).

In February 1947 there was held the Congress of the Provincial, City and County People's Committees of North Korea for the establishment of the PCNK. A 78-year-old representative of peasants delivered the opening address for the first day's session of the congress. The elderly man, whose family had been no better than a serf through generations for 30 years, was an active peasant of his ▶

▸ village and a member of the People's Committee of his county.

The day before the congress Kim Il Sung met the peasant. After acquainting himself with his family background he said that now the peasants had become eternal masters of the country and the land and that how good it was that an elderly man like him was elected as member of the People's Committee. He asked him to give the opening address for the congress.

Through the first democratic election, true representatives of the nation were elected deputies to power organs at all levels, thus becoming able to take fair part in dealing with State affairs.

Kim Il Sung creditably accomplished the cause of founding the DPRK by developing the PCNK into the all-Korean unified central government representing the interests of the entire Korean nation. With the beginning of the year 1948, to establish such a unified central government was not only an issue related to the future destiny of the country but also an urgent problem due to the serious situation in which the US imperialists and their stooges were overtly attempting to carry out separate elections and rig up a separate government in south Korea. Without delay Kim Il Sung put forth the policy of checking and frustrating the US imperialists' moves for a separate government and establishing a unified central government and saw to it that the general elections were held in August 1948 throughout north and south Korea after successfully making such preparations for the founding of the DPRK as enactment of the Constitution, flag and emblem of the Republic. A large number of people from the north and the south took part in the discussion of the draft Constitution held before the general elections. And there took place the elections to the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) in which excellent candidates were elected deputies to the SPA.

On September 9, 1948 there was established the government of the DPRK with Kim Il Sung as head of State and Premier of its Cabinet. The founding of the DPRK meant the realization of the supreme ideal cherished by the Korean people.

The DPRK further strengthened and developed into a people-centred socialist country and continued to distinguish itself as a powerful socialist state under the leadership of Chairman Kim Jong Il who took over the ideology and cause of Kim Il Sung. In the 1990s the DPRK was undergoing severe ordeals owing to the imperialists' tenacious manoeuvres to isolate and stifle it, tremendous natural calamities and food shortage. At the time the Chairman safeguarded the sovereignty of the Republic and socialism, upholding the banner of Songun. To the last days of his life he continuously followed the road of Songun for the prosperity of the Republic and the happiness of the people, establishing the eternal foundation for the building of a prosperous country and making sure for the socialist Korea invariably to advance along the road of socialism.

At present Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un sees to it that the DPRK that President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il consolidated all their life is further exalting its honour. The Supreme Leader said, **"I always think how to make our country strongest in the world as soon as possible as wished by the President [Kim Il Sung] and the General [Kim Jong Il]."**

Though not long since they began to make the revolution under the guidance of the Supreme Leader, the Korean people have learned who loves the country most and takes care of its future. Holding the people in as high respect as the President and the General, the Supreme Leader ensures that the interests and convenience of the people are given the top, absolute priority. His noble outlook on the people and his benevolent politics have turned ordinary industrial and agricultural workers, intellectuals, soldiers, young people and schoolchildren into heroes of the era held in respect by the whole country. And the Workers' Party of Korea and the State take full responsibility for the destiny, life and future of the people.

The DPRK makes sure that the essential qualities of socialism are securely retained and that the advantages of socialism are brought into full play in all fields of social life. All the people are firmly united around the Party, and the whole society is replete with the climate of giving importance to science and technology, the campaign for all the people to get well versed in science and technology, the spirit of collectivism whereby all help and lead one another under the slogan "One for all, all for one!" and the spirit of maintaining the Juche character and the national identity. Meanwhile all families of the country are benefiting from socialist policies of the Party and the State.

The country is changing tremendously year by year, resulting in translation of the people's ideals into reality,

The Korean people are confident that their future will be always bright as long as they are building a socialist power under the guidance of the Supreme Leader.

Ri Jong Nam

In Support of War for Liberation of Northeast China (7)

Liberation of Northeast China

SIPING CITY WAS A strategic point of great military importance and a hub of traffic that connected Shenyang where the Kuomintang forces' headquarters were based to Changchun, Hailong and Liaoyuan. As the Chinese Communist forces' attacks turned unbearable with the beginning of the year 1947, the Kuomintang forces deserted a vast area of the Northeastern land and took control of Changchun, Shenyang, Siping, Jinzhou and some other cities and railways to make a last-ditch attempt, completely encircled de facto by the Communist units.

To put Siping under the Communist control would be as good as breaking the backbone of the Kuomintang forces in the Northeast. Well aware of this, Chiang Kaishek's army turned the area into an "impregnable fortress" and was putting up desperate resistance.

It was in June 1947 when the world was in green verdure that the Northeast Democratic Allied Army launched a battle of Siping, which lasted for as many as ten months with offensive and defensive combats. The Communists suffered a loss in no small measure, to say nothing of the enemy.

Having been reported on the phone about the actual situation of the battle in detail, Kim Il Sung, the leader of the new Korea, took a measure to mobilize all the Korean units and other people in Northeast China to launch an intensive attack against the enemy without leaving any breathing spell for the enemy so as to finish the battle to liberate Siping as soon as possible.

The Korean and Chinese fighters in the battle of Siping were buoyed up. The Northeast People's Liberation Army commenced the final offensive in high spirit in March 1948.

All the fighters displayed great courage in the battle, and in particular the Korean soldiers spearheaded the offensive, demonstrating an indomitable fighting spirit and a high self-sacrificing spirit, thus making a tangible contribution to the victorious battle. The Korean military engineers played a big role, in particular. Even though tens of them fell in battle, they never hesitated or vacillated. When the first party failed, the second party dashed forward; and when the second fell, the third made a rush into the enemy camp to destroy the strong defence installations and make a breakthrough for attack.

Two days after the general offensive was opened the head of the 71st Army of the enemy took flight and Siping was completely liberated on March 13. In the battle more than 20 000 Kuomintang troops were killed or wounded, over 40 000 captured and the rest ran away to Shenyang where their general headquarters were based.

The victorious battle for liberation of Siping meant the signal of the complete victory of the Communist army in the war for liberation of the Northeast and the third revolutionary civil war.

The battle for liberation of Siping served as another display of the extent of the Korean people's bravery and self-sacrificing spirit. It is said that as many as tens of thousands of Koreans died in the battle. Scores of them were killed while dashing with a packet of dynamite to destroy the enemy forts.

With a keen foresight into the future situation of the war for liberation of the Northeast Kim Il Sung suggested the idea to liberate Jinzhou before concluding the second battle to liberate Changchun. Jinzhou was the gateway to China proper from Northeast China, so if the Northeast People's Liberation Army took control of Jinzhou the Kuomintang forces in the Northeast would become as good as a rat in the jar. (The Northeast Democratic Allied Army was renamed the Northeast People's Liberation Army in January 1948.) When the battle for liberation of Siping was the one that smashed the backbone of the Kuomintang forces, the one to liberate Jinzhou would be the one to strangle the Kuomintang army.

The battle of Jinzhou started on October 14 and ended in the Communist victory in 31 hours. Now that Jinzhou was liberated, the Communists became able to beat Chiang Kaishek's army in the Northeast as they wanted, just like a rat in the jar. The Communists mowed down 100 000 enemy troops and captured a huge amount of weapons.

The Northeast People's Liberation Army liberated Changchun in the spring of 1946 but yielded it to the Kuomintang forces in compliance with the so-called "China-Soviet Friendship Alliance Agreement." In April 1948 they encircled Changchun again and started a battle to liberate it. At that time the city was occupied by more than 100 000 Kuomintang troops who were entrenched in fortified defence works. It was a strength that was capable of carrying out a war.

The command of the Northeast People's Liberation Army had a council of war day after day, but they did not dare to launch a battle—for as long as six months. At last they informed Kim Il Sung of the situation and asked for his opinion.

Having understood the actual condition of the Changchun line to the last detail, Kim Il Sung decided to send an artillery regiment to support the battle to lib- ▸

► erate Changchun. He put forward a valuable suggestion: It is a matter of time to liberate Changchun now that Siping has been liberated. Instead of launching an all-out offensive which might incur a lot of deaths, it is necessary to lay a tight encirclement, combine deceptive threatening attacks with enemy-break-up operations closely and build on the experience they got in attacking a city during the anti-Japanese war. It is essential to point the attack at the weak link of the whole chain to make a breakthrough and gradually wipe out the enemy to the last man.

Now that the Northeast People's Liberation Army was launching an intensive attack while tightening the encirclement closely without any all-out offensive, there came a breakthrough at last. As a result, the second battle to liberate Changchun came to an end and the city fell into the hands of the Communists on October 19, 1948.

In order to make it impossible for Chiang Kaishek's army to get away from the Northeast, Kim Il Sung advised the Communists to form a second front that would connect Shenyang with Dandong and annihilate the enemy.

The battle of Heishan and Dahushan was of critical importance in the entire Liaoshen theatre, and it was also an important link in the whole chain of the war for liberation of the Northeast. If Heishan and Dahushan were defended securely, it would be able to cut the retreat of the Kuomintang forces in the Northeast including Liao Yaoxiang's combined army, bringing a decisive defeat to the enemy. For this reason, the command of the Northeast People's Liberation Army assigned the task of defending Heishan and Dahushan to Korean units that were the strongest in the army. The defence of the east Heishan was assigned to the 28th Division, the northwest to the 29th and Dahushan to the 30th.

Height 101 was the only hill that could be used to keep control of the open land spreading a little over 9 km from Dahushan to Heishan. It changed into a sea of fire in a bombardment the enemy made whenever they made an attack. The black smoke turned the sky grey like a solar eclipse. The fierce battle continued several days, and the Northeast People's Liberation Army lost the strength of nearly a battalion a day. Height 101 is said to have become two metres lower by the Kuomintang forces' bombing and shelling raids. The Communist fighters defended it heroically for three days.

Through the five-day bloody struggle the Northeast People's Liberation Army units wiped out as many as 100 000 troops of 12 divisions from five armies of Liao Yaoxiang's combined army, thus making a decisive contribution to the victory in the Liaoshen theatre. In the battle of Heishan and Dahushan Liao Yaoxiang, commander of a Kuomintang combined army, was captured and his unit was vanquished.

After the battle all the Communist forces were concentrated on the campaign to liberate Shenyang, which was already encircled. Shenyang was the last stronghold where the general headquarters of the Northeast forces of the Kuomintang army were based. Recognizing their defeat in all regions in the Northeast, the enemy tried to defend Shenyang at all costs until they could make a breakthrough in the encirclement and take flight if there came a chance.

Shenyang was originally encircled by Chinese units, but when the general offensive was launched on November 1, 1948 the Korean units began to play the main role. At the time Shenyang was crowded with as many as 200 000 Kuomintang troops, who had been driven there from different places and were entrenched in powerful fortresses to put up strong resistance. Breaking their defence positions would be quite a task. In such a situation, the Korean units of the 4th Independent Division and the 37th Division which was organized in Yanji rushed to Shenyang headed by tanks and armoured vehicles. (These units had performed brilliant feats in the battle to liberate Changchun.) They annihilated over 1 500 enemy troops at once and broke through the northern defence positions to take the airport and capture dozens of aircraft. The enemy was driven into great confusion, so they proposed negotiation. When the Communist political commissar met the enemy and demanded unconditional surrender rejecting their request for peace negotiation, the enemy returned it with horrible bombing and shelling of the airport area where the Korean units were stationed.

The Korean and Chinese units launched a volley of gunfire against the enemy in good cooperation. Seeing their defeat just round the corner, the enemy commanding officers took flight by air on the afternoon of October 30, and 100 000 surrendered to the Communists while the rest fled in all directions. Shenyang was completely liberated at 5 pm, November 2.

Through the battles of Siping, Jinzhou, Changchun and Shenyang as many as 500 000 enemy troops were killed, wounded or captured.

The war for liberation of Northeast China came to an end in three years.

Yingkou was a major coastal supply base of the enemy, which was of great weight in terms of military strategy. As it was hard hit preliminarily by the Korean unit, the 4th Independent Division, in June 1948, it had been unable to function as a reinforcement and supply base. But it was still one of the main routes for the enemy retreat. Moreover, since Jinzhou fell into the hands of the Communists, Yingkou would be the last way out for the enemy retreat.

When Yingkou, the last hope of the remnants of the enemy, was liberated by the Northeast People's Liberation Army, Chiang Kaishek's Kuomintang army was driven out of Northeast China completely. Chiang Kaishek was destined to fall like the setting sun. ❑

Engaged in Founding the First People's University

WHEN KOREA WAS LIBERATED FROM the military occupation of the Japanese imperialists Kim Il Sung, leader of the country, proposed to erect a university to settle the matter of native cadres creditably for smooth construction of a new democratic Korea, and pushed ahead with preparations. The Provisional People's Committee of North Korea adopted a resolution to establish a university which would be the first of its kind for the people in the country, and the preparatory committee was organized.

The anti-Japanese war heroine Kim Jong Suk devoted all her efforts to carry out Kim Il Sung's great plan creditably. Early in July 1946 she had a talk with officials of the preparatory committee for the university foundation. When they asked her for her opinion about matters like the standard of selecting university students and formation of the teaching plan, she remembered something that had happened some days before.

Kim Il Sung came back home at dawn after he sat up all night working in his office. He said to Kim Jong Suk that he was so worried that sons and daughters of workers and peasants and revolutionary fighters, who had suffered every manner of humiliation and insult before liberation, had a lack of knowledge when they were to attend a university when it was established. She was in a deep thought for a while, and then said that it would be better to teach them for one year or two before they went on to university course. Kim Il Sung said that he had already thought of that and that a preparatory course should be set up in the university.

Recollecting his words, Kim Jong Suk told the officials that the preparatory committee for foundation of the university was mistaken when they planed to admit only those young people who had knowledge corresponding to secondary school graduate, and that the country had very few secondary school graduates. She continued to say, "Selection of young people for the university is not a perfunctory matter but an important political matter. Because it is one of the crucial problems in training pillars for the future of a new democratic Korea. So sons and daughters of working people like workers and peasants and revolutionaries who fought for the liberation of the country at the cost of their lives should be admitted to the university, even if they have a lack of knowledge.

"It would be good that they receive intensive education through a preparatory course at the university for one year or two, as the General [Kim Il Sung] said. Then, they will be able to study in the university without any problem."

During the university construction she inspected the site several times. Understanding the workers' troubles going up and down the stairs carrying bricks, she told officials an easier way to reduce their burden and even gave a helping hand to the workers and Pyongyang citizens who were there to assist the project. She appealed to erect the university as wonderfully and quickly as possible as desired by all Koreans, and make it the most excellent university in the world. She gave valuable advice to ensure the highest quality of the construction.

On October 10, 1948 Kim Jong Suk accompanied the national leader to the inaugural ceremony of a new Kim Il Sung University building. She was glad that the Korean people would become able before long to carry out the construction of a new country by the effort of their own contingent of national cadres.

Kim Jong Suk paid deep concern to university students so that they learned broad and deep knowledge necessary for the construction of a new country. Whenever she met the students she said that the country had been unable to develop science and technology as well as education as it had been under the colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists for decades, and that they all had to study hard—especially putting more efforts into their special subjects—with a determination to develop the backward science and technology rapidly.

One of the problems the university had was the lack of textbooks and reference books for students. The teachers wrote and mimeographed textbooks till late at night, but they were not enough to afford the need of all students. Learning the situation, Kim Il Sung took a measure to carry out the work of writing and compiling textbooks by mobilizing all academics from across the country. Kim Jong Suk gave energetic guidance to the work to provide enough textbooks and reference books to students true to the leader's intention.

The foundation of Kim Il Sung University was deeply permeated with the efforts and devotion of Kim Jong Suk, and it will go down forever in the history of the socialist country.

Pang Mi Hye

High-performance Aerogenerators Produced in Large Numbers

KOREA IS ACCELERATING the work to increase the power production using wind force, tidal power, organic substances and solar energy and make the most of natural energy.

The Phyongsong Automatic Appliances Factory, situated in Phyongsong City, South Phyongan Province, is achieving a remarkable success in the production of aerogenerators. The factory is not so big, but it is producing solid and light aerogenerators of various capacities at low production cost, drawing the public attention.

Hong Jong Gun, officer in charge of the equipment, says, "Our small aerogenerators work even at the wind speed of two metres per second. And they are not only of high efficiency and easy to handle but have a long life. As they can be installed anywhere to supply power, they are very popular with the users."

Some years ago, the provincial authorities had an emergency meeting, attended by relevant officials and technicians. They discussed how to meet the provincial need for power by installing aerogenerators of various capacities in right places in consonance with the actual condition of the province with abundant wind energy resources. Returning from the conference, senior engineer Ri Ho Son and equipment officer Hong Jong Gun decided to make an aerogenerator by their factory's own effort. All the workers agreed with them and buckled down to the work. Soon some innovative ideas were proposed by the workers and a development team was organized.



The team started its work with the manufacture of the generator blade while collecting technical data on the generator. Ri Ho Son took charge of the general design while technical officer Ryu Yong Son solved technical problems in developing the generator blade. Under the concern of the whole factory the main body of the generator was made in a month and its simulation was carried out, while this or that defect was removed. Now the trial generator was set up in Phungjong-ri, Jungsan County, South Phyongan Province, for the local youth workteam. A few days later, however, the blades of the generator were broken by the strong wind, keeping all the members of the team at high tension. *What was wrong? Was it with the manufacture of the blades?* They racked their brain.

They immediately disassembled the generator and analysed all the parts scrupulously. At last they found some problems in the blades, even in control and mechanical devices. It was because of their poor technical calculation as it was their strange project. Now the researchers decided to do it all over again. Yong Son took charge of the blade manufacture while Pak Sung Hyok, leader of the assembly workteam, assumed the task of removing defects in the control device, and Hong Jong Gun eliminated defects in the mechanical device. They solved all the knotty problems by pooling wisdom and efforts of the workers.

Thanks to their tireless efforts, the aerogenerator was reinstalled at the youth workteam. The result of its test for nearly four months turned out successful. Seeking a high aim of producing more efficient aerogenerators of various capacities in larger numbers based on their experience, the researchers are now bringing about uninterrupted innovations in the production.

Pak Un Yong

First Workteam of Pioneers of Mallima Movement Born



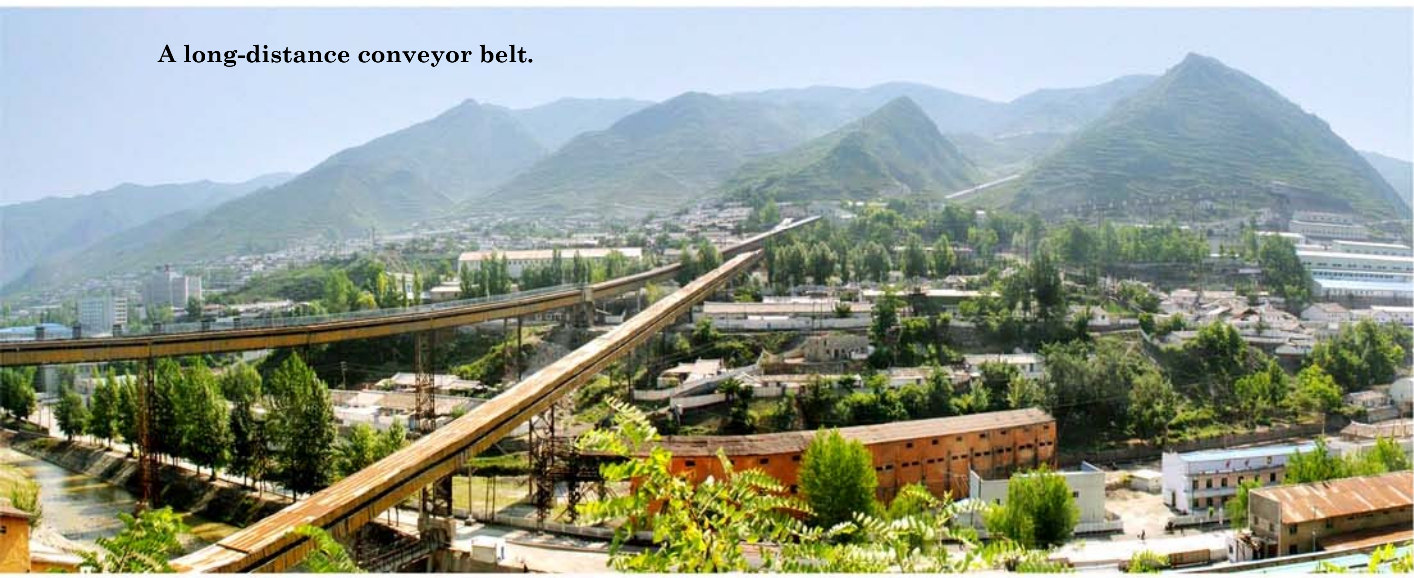
The Ko Kyong Chan-led Hero Workteam is the first to be honoured with the title of Workteam of Pioneers of the Mallima Movement.

LATE THIS YEAR KOREA IS going to hold a conference of pioneers of the Mallima movement. In honour of the meeting the country has been seething with the enthusiastic competition to be the first to win the title of Workteam of Pioneers of the Mallima Movement.

The workers of the Komdok Mining Complex have led the competition by making an innovation in ore production day after day. It is a leading enterprise of the nation which mass-produces lead and zinc ores abundantly deposited in the area.

Managers of the complex have enlisted the creative ingenuity of field officers and workers, and concentrated their efforts on the Kumgol Mine and other deep workings with large deposits. Thus, a prospect has been opened to create 1.2 times more tunnels than before and secure a large quantity of ores. Meanwhile they have seen to it that regular check and control of technical equipment such as winches, pumps and compressors are scrupulously organized so as to ensure full operation of the equipment and that their own technical forces were mobilized to double the amount of ores conveyed from deep workings.

The workers of the Kumgol Mine brought about an innovation in mining the minerals through a collective competition. They arranged drilling machines and ensured the depth of blast holes to suit the quality of the rock as required by technical regulations, and introduced new methods of blasting to undertake sequence drilling and sequence blasting. As a result, the efficiency of blasting and the speed of blasting cycle rose and their plan for the first quarter of the year was fulfilled in February. The Ko Kyong Chan-led Hero Workteam miraculously carried out their plan for the first ►



A long-distance conveyor belt.

▶ half of the year in February and their quota of the national economic plan of the year in April.

On April 21 Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un sent a congratulatory message to the workteam of the April 5 Pit, the Kumgol Mine, for their earlier fulfilment of their quota of the annual national economic plan on the significant occasion of the Day of the Sun (April 15, the birthday of President Kim Il Sung). In the message the Supreme Leader said that the workteam members had courageously waged an intensive drive for increased production for the purpose of attaining the goal of mineral production ahead of schedule on the occasions of the Day of the Shining Star (February 16, the birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il), the Day of the Sun and the anniversary of the Chairman's visit to the mine as befits hero miners of Kumgol, who had developed under the great trust and care of the President and the Chairman, in response to the Party's militant call on all the people to launch a general drive to bring about a turning point in the building of a socialist economic giant this year, the year of key importance in carrying out the five-year strategy for the development of the national economy.

The Ko Kyong Chan-led Hero Workteam is a famous workteam formed with local young people who were born in 1961, the year when the President inspected the mining complex.

Hearing the Supreme Leader's New Year Address for this year, Ko Kyong Chan was excited and said to his workteam members, "I was moved when our respected Marshal said that his desires had been burning all the time, but that he had spent the past year feeling anxious and remorseful for the lack of his ability. This year the condition of our workteam in production is poorer than last year. We, however, should unconditionally carry out our annual plan by April so as to carry on the tradition of our hero workteam of Komdok without fail."

Later that day the workteam adopted a decision that represented their feelings. It read in part, "We will carry out our plan for the first half of this year by February on the occasion of the 75th birth anniversary of the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il. We will carry out our annual plan by April on the occasion of the 105th birth anniversary of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung."

One day early in April when the workteam was going all out to fulfil their annual plan, Ko fell into deep thought because he found that they would be able to carry out their yearly plan by around April 20 if they continued to work at the same speed. *If we further strive we would be able to finish the yearly plan on the occasion of the Day of the Sun*, he thought. Later that day there took place a consultation of the workteam in the working. The workteam leader proposed to introduce a three-dimensional digging method. It was really a bold idea that could ensure sequence drilling by applying shrinkage stoping at the bottom of a face and a drill rig on the top so as to cut a large quantity of ores at a time. On April 14 the workteam finished the last round of blasting for fulfilling their yearly plan. This meant they executed their decision one day before the Day of the Sun (April 15) by their own collective efforts. For this they became the first Workteam of Pioneers of the Mallima Movement.



The inside of a floatation plant.

With the pride in having become the home of the first Workteam of Pioneers of the Mallima Movement, the mining complex is working miracles and making innovations uninterruptedly to honour the coming meeting of pioneers of the Mallima movement with increased production of ores.

Sim Yong Jin

Story of Kangso Mineral Water





The integrated control room.

THE SPRING OF KANGSO MINERAL WATER, the best of its kind in Korea, is located about 30 kilometres west of Pyongyang.

Rising from 130 metres deep under the ground, the water is a natural carbonated one with pH of less than 6.0. Containing scores of kinds of microelements, it is unique water the kind of which cannot be synthesized artificially yet.

In 1982 the water was registered as one of precious natural products in Korea. And it is green drinking water that won a WIPO certificate of origin and a SGS certificate of inspection. It is known to have been discovered around 300 years ago.

It was 70 years ago that the water began to contribute to the promotion of the people's health. In 1947, during his inspection of the spring, President Kim Il Sung instructed officials concerned to take a measure for the working people to have a rest and get medical treatment in the vicinity while drinking the water well known from olden times. And tasting the water himself, the President named it Kangso mineral water and gave an instruction to increase the yield of the water. Later he took a measure to send the latest diagnostic and treatment equipment and an ambulance there.

True to his instructions, a prospecting corps positively explored the location to find over 20 more similar springs, and the Kangso Mineral Water Factory and a sanatorium were built around the springs, making it possible for all the Korean people to use the water.

In 2011 the springs suddenly ran dry owing to an earthquake that occurred in a neighbouring country. Then Chairman Kim Jong Il had a competent scientific survey team dispatched there to find out the source of the spring without fail. As a result, the spring began to rise again in nearly doubled quantity 60 days after it had run dry.

To meet the daily increasing demand for the water, the aforesaid factory modernized the production ▶

processes on a scientific basis, thus boosting the production of the water. Recently the factory has carried out a new renovation project—the establishment of an integrated manufacturing system that consists of a business management system, a production management system and an automatic workshop control system, and the introduction of devices for observation and automatic control of the entire production processes from the spring source area to the forwarding process. Meanwhile a new technology was introduced to better the carbonic acid gas separator to increase the production of the gas, making it possible to improve the quality of the water. Furthermore, all production processes of the factory are free from germs and dust, and an injecting and cap-sealing machine, an automatic cleaning, injecting and bottle-capping machine and other machines have been modernized.

The factory has had lots of visitors from the US, Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia and so on, who all admired the water for its good taste.

The result of the inspection of the water by radiation done in Russia in May 2012 showed that its numerical value of alpha rays is 0.002 (the tolerance limit is 0.1 unit) and its numerical value of beta rays 0 (the tolerance limit is 1 unit)—a surprising fact.

During his inspection of the factory in June last, Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un put forward important tasks to be carried out to increase the production of the water, further improve its quality, make the production processes modern, scientific and automatic on a higher basis and provide the enterprise with a healthier environment. And he expressed his expectation and confidence that the managers and employees of the factory, in the spirit of faithful service for the people, would mass-produce and supply the famous, healthy mineral water to the people.

Now you can see a lot of vans carrying the mineral water through streets of Pyongyang.

Sim Chol Yong







Pride of Turf Researchers

THESE DAYS THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea is conducting a vigorous research on the greening of urban areas and protection of the ecological environment.

In December 2015 the Turf Branch of the State Academy of Sciences succeeded in breeding June grass *Mangyong 1,* a new species of turf which is of a high ornamental value and has a long period of greening and great vitality. The older kinds of turf had some defects. They had a short period of greening and weak resistance against dry weather, high temperature and blights. "Golden turf" and "June grass No. 2" were typical examples.

To make up the defects, the researchers decided to breed a new species of turf suitable for the local climate and soil conditions by using hereditary resources of the country. The most difficult task was to find out turf resources that are well adapted to the local conditions. The researchers combed northern parts of Korea including Ryanggang, North and South Hamgyong provinces for turf resources. They were so exhausted that they sometimes tumbled down cliffs while climb- ►



Researchers are engrossed in breeding a new species of grass.





ing mountains, and they once lost their way, wandering about in the forest all night. After over 100 days of hard search they finally collected some 20 kinds of turf resources which could be used as initial materials for breeding new species of turf. Based on the turf resources, they developed individual variations one by one which have a long period of greening along with strong resistance against high temperature, dry weather and blights. Meanwhile, they carried out experiments to obtain pure variations by removing isomers from the individual variations.

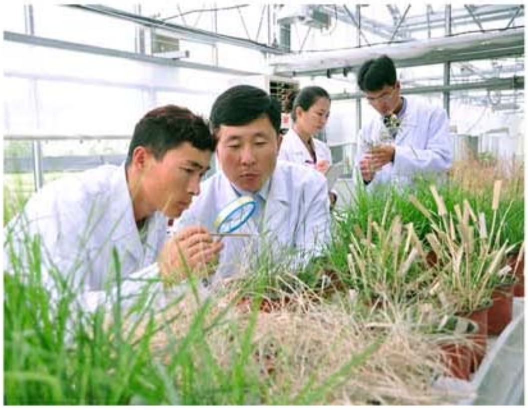
Over the years they had a lot of difficulties and failures. Jang Yong Il, head of a laboratory, gave courage to faltering researchers, saying that they had to make mountains and fields of the country green relying on their own resources, technology and efforts. Thanks to the three years of painstaking research with their concerted efforts and wisdom, success came in breeding the abovementioned turf based on the hereditary resources of the country.

On December 21, 2015 June grass *Mangyong 1* was registered as one of the national gardening plant species. It is green for 300 days a year with strong resistance against blights. It quickly forms its sod—in only 60 days—and its stalk root is much thicker and longer than other types of June grasses. It can be cultivated in not only the central area but also the northern highland of Korea, because it has a thick root striking 30 cm deep in the ground and strong resistance against high temperature, dry and cold weather.

Recollecting their three years of research, Jang says, "I realized that there is nothing impossible when we have a mind of loving every tree and every blade of grass. So I often ask to love our own things."

Today a lot of regions and units are reaping benefits from the June grass *Mangyong 1* in the urban greening project and protection of ecological environment.

Choe Sol Mi







Developers of Fish Detectors



RECENTLY WE HEARD that the Hongwon Fishery Station in Hongwon County, South Hamgyong Province was catching a lot of fish, and we visited it for coverage. We happened to see fishing boats with the boat *T-114* in their van returning with a flag of full load of fish flying. We could see people waiting at the wharf to meet the crews, saying, "*T-114* is still leading the fleet. It's a matter of fact as it has an eye for detection of undersea things."

When the boat got to the wharf we went to see its captain Jo Song Guk out of curiosity. He said, "My boat is equipped with a fish detector. It was developed by researchers of the Cutting-edge Science Research Centre of Kim Il Sung University. It is convenient to use and highly efficient."

There we met Professor Choe Kyong Chol, head of a laboratory of the centre, who said, "The fish detector we developed recently is a Korean-style one to the last detail. It ensures accuracy of fish finding in a large area of sea with a multifunctional performance like automatic recording of detection images and multi-detection." Then, he told us the following story.

One evening some years ago Choe received a letter from one of his alumni, who was working as captain at the abovementioned station. He said in the letter that the station was having a competition to catch more fish but little increase; fishing boats equipped with vertical fish detectors were in full operation but the result was not satisfactory; he requested Choe to develop a high-performance detector for them.

Choe immediately looked up technical data about the vertical fish detector. He learned that the equipment could search the sea underneath in a vertical line, thus consuming a lot of time, oil and labour. Earlier he had once had an idea of developing a fish detector which would be able to scan all directions simultaneously. Now he decided to make it. He knew he had to do a lot of scientific and technical tasks because he had to make it capable of carrying out both horizontal and vertical detections for a much less time based on multifunctional operation. His colleagues volunteered to help him.

Researcher Ri Ui Hwan, who was in charge of general designing of antenna, advanced an optimum mode of construction to improve efficiency with a less amount of elements. Researcher Jon Chang Ju, who took charge of making a device which was used to process signals for the monitor, developed a program which could remove false signals from the monitor, so as to enhance the accuracy of the fish detector. Scientific workshops were held several times at the centre to solve scientific and technical problems arising in the research. Finally a new kind of fish detector was developed in a few months. After a simulation of the detector the researchers tested its actual performance at some units for nearly 60 days, finally confirming its efficiency.

Thanks to their efforts, the trial fish detector came off in nearly a year. Building on this, the researchers continued with the project with an innovative eye to surpass the world's advanced products. Finally they developed Models 1 and 2 of fish detector, which is able to search 1 600 metres horizontally and 1 000 metres vertically.

They are conducting their research work to develop varieties of detectors and tracking devices of an ultra-modern level, and their achievements contribute to development of the nation's fishing industry.

Pak Yong Il

Authorities on Clinical Medicine

"RECENTLY MY INSTItute has gained valuable achievements that contribute to development of the nation's health technology. We are all determined to play the role of pioneer in developing the clinical medicine," says O Hak Chol, director of the Clinical Institute, Pyongyang Medical College, Kim Il Sung University.

The institute was established in 1962 staffed with a small number of researchers in some departments like surgical and pediatric ones. Later it set up quite a few departments such as those of leucoderma, abdominal surgery, microplastic surgery and rheumatism, and has expanded the realm of research continuously. In the course of this it has achieved a lot and is now recognized as an authoritative establishment.

Recently the microplastic surgery researchers succeeded in developing with their own efforts and technology a no-damage needle which had been the monopoly of only a few countries as an essential material for microplastic surgery. This brought a great progress in the field of microplastic surgery.

Meanwhile, the researchers developed surgical methods of high difficulty including the technique of transplanting a bone with nutritional vessels and the one of elongating limbs, and applied them to treatment, thus bringing a lot of people back to normal conditions.

The researchers of the digestive system department developed *Saengmyong* (life), which is a natural active mineral-supplementing water, using natural minerals richly found in Korea. This drinking water is becoming popular with sportspeople and workers doing jobs of heavy physical burdens, as it plays a great role in reducing hepatic and digestive troubles due to physical activities. Deputy Director Kim Mu Nam says that they are making fuller studies of the water to further improve the effect.

The researchers of the leucoderma department are registering successes in the studies of leucoderma, an obstinate disease, by introducing advanced diagnostic and curative methods in accordance with the trend of modern medical development and by combining the modern and the traditional Korean medicine closely. By making a profound research they introduced a new remedy, which is based on the combination of surgical and medicinal treatments, into the clinical treatment and thus ensured upwards of 80 percent of efficiency. Along with this they are laying theoretical and practical foundations steadily by conducting studies of advanced curative techniques and different experiments.

The abdominal surgery department is also making an upsurge in their studies. They succeeded in the operation of removing invagination and fixing the appendix using the laparoscope, which is one of the most difficult abdominal operations. Their method makes it possible to leave a minimum scar and get well very fast after operation while ensuring a high cosmetic value of the scar. The researchers also made a success of the manufacturing of a miniature trocar for operation of abdominal cavity. This instrument is very simple in structure and costs much less than before, thus popular with the surgeons.

Thanks to the great courage of the researchers who are struggling to beat the world, the institute is producing novel results of high value without interruption.

Sim Hyon Jin

Researchers render service to development of the health technology of the nation.



Fruits of Effort

THE MINISTRY OF Commerce Sports Club is achieving successes at domestic and international competitions. They ranked among the top three in the 9^{th} Asian tumbling (juvenile) championships 2015, the Chinese Taipei open athletics tournament 2016 and the 25^{th} world tumbling championships. In 2016 the club snatched 90 odd medals at home and international contests. All these successes are attributable to the sports club's effort to rapidly apply modern scientific and technological achievements and experience to suit the condition of the club and the constitutional characteristics of the sportspersons and conduct the training on a more scientific footing.

The coaches of the club are developing new perfect scientific and tactical systems based on their achievements and experience. Meanwhile, they are studying fortes of the opponents and steadily introducing unique training methods and knacks to outdo them. In the course of reviewing contests and exercises they found that they could further improve the effectiveness of the training if they updated some parts of the professional physical training apparatuses.

By pooling their wisdom and effort they carried out the work to renovate training apparatuses to suit all members. At the same time they intensified the research work to develop new training apparatuses by themselves. They created a lot of apparatuses like the one for improving the backbone strength and the one for handstand. An apparatus for extending the thigh joint which is effective in events that require flexible movements, and a multifunctional apparatus for building up the strength of the upper body were appreciated at the 20^{th} national sporting sci-tech festival 2016.

Not content with this, they conducted the research project named *Study on Popular Method of Health Management by New Reflex Therapy of Korean Style*, which everyone can do easily at any place. This won first place at the 31^{st} national sci-tech festival. A device for rating the efficiency of training and a measuring device for selecting reserve players have brought about wonderful results. Merited Athlete and Coach Pak Sun Nyo who was chosen as one of the best ten coaches of last year, says, "The







Sportspersons intensify physical training and polish technical movements.



Player No. 20

MERITED ATHLETE KIM So Hyang, footballer of the Sobaeksu Sports Club, left an indelible impression on experts and spectators at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2016. Sin Myong Chol, her coach, says, "It's her forte to head into the net as a forward after she breaks through the defence line. If she passes the ball from the side, it makes a goal without fail. Her treatment of the ball is really fascinating."

So Hyang was born of a worker's family in Ryongsong District, Pyongyang. She had an uncommon sense of football. One day when she was a fourth-year pupil of primary school she saw schoolboys playing football in the playground. Now she joined the game without hesitation. She was pretty better than boys in beating opponents and passing the ball. A sports teacher of the school called her and asked if she wanted to join the football circle. She said, "I want to be an excellent football player so as to have our national flag fly over the sky of foreign countries."

This was how So Hyang became related with football. The school organized a schoolgirls' football team with her as head.

Later she was admitted to Ryongsong District Juvenile Sports School and learned basic football techniques. She improved her skill while training in the professional club. She shed more sweats than others trying to possess extraordinary techniques and studied hard to absorb special knowledge of football. She improved her forte as a forward at several national games.

Finally she got a chance to test her techniques when she took part in the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2012. Making the most of her forte, she scored three goals in five matches. She scored goals as a forward and made good chances for goal in the field. Her action caught the eye of football experts.

She displayed her techniques to the full at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup 2016. In the group league match with the Swedish team she contributed to the victory by creating chances of scoring with fast passes and attacks. She was well known to the experts when she got a hat trick in the match with the Papua New Guinean team. She displayed her attainment to the full as seed player in the quarterfinal, semifinal and final matches.

The Koreans still remember So Hyang, No. 20 player who ran all over the field. She was selected as one of the ten DPRK players of the year 2016.

Sim Hyon Jin

► secret of our players' win at domestic and international competitions lies in scientific training methods and their competitive zeal."

Balance and speed are important factors of tumbling which demands graceful rhythms and exquisite technical movements. As the performance is done by teamwork, not by individuals, a player's mistake may cause an irreparable result. Coach Pak mapped out a new training programme in accord with the constitutional characteristics of each player and the technical features. Based on it she put stress on helping the players fulfil their assigned training target and act in concert with each other. She set tasks of difficult movements and made an exact demand on the players to perform them perfectly. Now the players paid attention to the accuracy and speed in making movements. And they redoubled their effort in training and vied with one another to improve their skills. The painstaking efforts of the players bore fruit; they have registered good records at domestic matches this year.

The campaign to outdo the leading ones is also held in the training grounds of trampoline, boxing and marathon. The coaches and sportspersons of the club, which produced famous players including Pak Sung Jin, a central forward who demonstrated the mettle of Korea at the 8th World Cup Football Championship in England in 1966, are exerting themselves to be masters of sports competent enough to exalt the honour of the country.

The sports club, established in December 1956, set up a target of being a champion in the events it can excel, and other events. Their effort will bear gratifying results.

Kim Hyon Ju

Dig Your Own Area

THE DEPARTMENT OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY and head and neck surgery of Pyongyang Municipal People's Hospital No. 1 is one of Korea's leading medical groups as the centre of the relevant research society of the Ministry of Public Health.

The head of both the department and the society is O Ju Hyon who was appointed to the post seven years ago after working as a teacher at the Pyongyang Medical College of Kim Il Sung University.





New therapies are developed perfectly.

During his over ten-year-long career as a teacher he had already acquired relevant cyclopedic knowledge and rich clinical experience. And his mother was the experienced head of the similar department of a central hospital. This enabled him to take the shortcut to the attainments of his.

On the basis of his knowledge and experience O is steadily venturing into the unknown world in his field. During his treatment of patients he noticed that among patients with both sinusitis and bronchitis there were those who continued to show signs of bronchitis and would relapse into the disease even after their sinusitis had been treated. The diseases referred to as sinobronchitis syndrome were recognized as a new disease syndrome at the end of last century.

The pathogenesis of the syndrome had not been clearly explained across the world, and there was no correct method of diagnosing the syndrome. Besides, no rational method of treating it was published. According to the relevant specialists, the syndrome was a complication—lasting sinusitis gave rise to bronchitis and vice versa—and it had become the recognized fact that bronchitis did not occur if sinusitis was treated in time. They also said that peculiar medicines were effective in treating the complication.

O, however, noticed that there was an obvious difference between clinical practice and the specialists' opinions, and volunteered to solve the problem. During his career as a teacher he had already been engrossed in the relevant research, wondering about the problem.

O says, "Whenever such a difficult problem arose in treating patients I could hardly be indifferent to their pains. And I keenly felt I should be responsible for pioneering a part of the medical field."

He made a model of the syndrome, and on the basis of the model, intensified the basic and clinical research to know its pathogenesis and find the way to improve its diagnosis and treatment. In the course of this, he discovered that the pathogenesis is not a complication, but a simultaneous attack of the diseases. And he found out an effective method of the treatment, that is, he confirmed that the syndrome requires not a local treatment based on a particular medicine, but a compound method of treating the affected area and the rest of the body at the same time. He also invented a necessary diagnostic device, and the result of the research was verified in clinical practice.

Timely application of the compound treatment resulted in no cases in which the diseases became chronic or returned. He then newly defined the syndrome as an acquired syndrome that causes inflammatory changes in paranasal sinus, bronchus and lung simultaneously. For his scientific explanation of the concept and incidence of the syndrome and the selection of the rational method of its treatment, O received a doctorate in April 2015. And in April 2016 he obtained a DPRK certificate of invention for inventing a thermal ear-nose-throat-treating device. He also has several certificates of contrivance.

O's enterprising and enthusiastic way of work has helped other members of the department prepare themselves to be able surgeons. Recently the number of those with academic degrees or titles in the department has rapidly increased, and the department has received three state patents in two months. Their achievements were often highly estimated at national health sector's scientific and technological achievements exhibitions and national medical appliances exhibitions.

The department head says, "No mistake is tolerable in treating patients. We can fulfil our duty as engineers of human life only when we dig our own area."

Rim Ok



Winners of Special Award

IN MARCH 2017 THE 10TH IZHEVSK International Acrobatic Festival was held in Izhevsk, the Republic of Udmurtiya, Russia. Famous acrobats from more than ten countries including the DPRK, Russia, China, Germany, Italy and Spain took part in the festival. The DPRK acrobats gave a surprise to acrobatic experts and spectators with their physical acrobatics "Diverse Aerial Trapeze" in which they performed a high-level aerial stunt perfectly. They received a special award, the highest prize of the festival. Recently a *Korea Today* reporter met them.

Secret of success

It was known that an act of five backward somersaults in aerial trapeze was too much for human physical ability. We tried to execute the act, when most people argued we couldn't do it. However, we turned impossibility into possibility beyond their expectation. Five acrobats had to keep step with one another, and, moreover, any trivial mistake could lead to an irretrievable accident because we had to execute the act in the air. At that time I was given the leading part in the act, and I was restless with little confidence. Then my colleagues gave me courage, saying, "There has been nothing impossible for us to do when we decided. We can overcome our difficulties when we pool our wisdom and efforts. Your decision and practice are the most important."

Efforts are directed to further improvement of stunts.



It was an arduous march and I had to overcome a lot of difficulties and failures in training to perfect the act. I once walked tens of miles at night to get new equipment for the training, and I sometimes collapsed due to hard training. We spent a lot of nights writhing in agony as we had difficulties in keeping step with one another. However, we finally perfected the act through five years of hard training in close cooperation. I could not express my feeling with any words at the time. It would have been impossible to make a success if we had had no confidence in our ability.

Merited Artiste Han Ho Song

Girl full of dreams

I was fond of acrobatics from childhood. When there was an acrobatic programme on TV I was so excited that I clapped my hands. I used to pester my parents for a visit to the acrobatic theatre every Sunday or holiday. Acrobatics came to be a part of my life, and I used to tell people that I would be an aerial stunt performer flying in the sky in the future. Then they saw me as a daydreamer. I wanted to prove that my dream was far from empty.

Later I became an aerial stunt performer as I wished. At the time I said that my second dream was to be a world-famous acrobat by winning victory at international acrobatic festivals. This made them dumbfounded.

Now I realized my second dream, too. I have another dream—becoming the queen of acrobatics by executing an act of four backward somersaults. I know I'll fulfil my dream.

Acrobat Kim Un Ha

People's Artiste Choe Myong Su, the coach, says, "We got the Gold Prize at the world acrobatic festival 'Idol-2016' held in Moscow in September 2016. At the recent festival we won the top award. Without being satisfied, we'll redouble our effort to reach a higher level of stunt."

Pooling their collective wisdom, the acrobats are training hard to lead the acrobatic world by performing a still higher level of aerial stunt.

Kim So Yong

Progress in Tourism



RECENTLY, AS THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea has established a lot of tourist facilities with an excellent service condition, the number of tourists both at home and from abroad is increasing. Now dozens of areas including Pyongyang, Kaesong, Mt. Kumgang and Mt. Myohyang have tourist facilities. The Wonsan area, a tourist attraction located in an ecologically favourable region, is a good example. It has newly established the Kalma Hotel, Saenal Hotel and Masikryong Hotel that can accommodate thousands of visitors.

Hotels in the vicinity of Mt. Kumgang can accommodate a lot of tourists. The area is attracting not only Koreans but also foreigners, for it has more than 100 sites of historical importance, several bathing resorts, natural lakes and spas whose water is good for treating stomach troubles.

The DPRK noted for its scenic beauty provides services for general tour, cultural tour, sports tour and so on so as to meet the increasing demand of Korean and foreign tourists.

Korea is a peninsular country located in the east centre of the Asian continent. It borders on China and Russia on the north and is bounded on the other three sides by the sea. About 80 percent of its whole territory consists in mountains including Mt. Paektu (2 750 m), the highest mountain in the country, Mt. Myohyang, Mt. Kumgang and Mt. Chilbo. It has a lot of rivers and streams and a long coastal line. The East, West and South seas of Korea are linked with the Pacific Ocean. It has four distinctive seasons, and its mountains and streams are beautiful in any season.

So tourists from many regions and countries can fully enjoy themselves in the DPRK. In recent years, the country has mapped out its strategy for sustainable development of tourism and is focusing state concern and investment on the relevant projects. Having planned to increase the number of tourists the coun- ►





Tourists spend an enjoyable time.

► try takes positive measures to establish modern tourist facilities. In summer last year Pyongyang Taedonggang Beer Festival 2016 was held in Pyongyang and in September there took place a lot of functions including Wonsan International Friendship Air Festival 2016 in Wonsan, deeply impressing tourists.

Meanwhile, the country is making positive efforts to lay a material and technical foundation for development of tourism. Pyongyang College of Tourism trains specialists for development of tourism, and the tourist faculty at universities of education in every province, too, trains tourist workers in a far-sighted way. Dozens of travel companies including Korea International Travel Company and Pyongyang Koryo International Travel Company have been organized to ensure the convenience of tourists from home and abroad. Korea International Travel Company, which was established on August 24, 1953, is a typical example. The travel company receives tourists from many regions like China, Russia, Southeast Asia and Europe, and provides them with varieties of services including those for general tour, cultural tour and sports tour.

In March last air line from Pyongyang to Dandong was opened providing convenience to a lot of people who wish for a tour of Korea. The airliner departs from Pyongyang at 9 a.m. on every Tuesday and Friday and arrives in Dandong at 9:50 a.m. (9:20 a.m. local time), and it departs from Dandong at 10:50 a.m. (10:20 a.m. local time) and arrives in Pyongyang at 11:40 a.m.

Under the ideal of independence, peace and friendship, the DPRK is putting continuous efforts in developing tourism in order to develop cooperation and exchange with many countries and provide the people with opportunities for rich cultural and leisure activities.

Pak Thae Ho

The Masikryong Hotel.







Warmhearted Woman

IN NOVEMBER 2016 THERE took place the 15th National Singing Contest of Working People. The winner of the contest's family category was the family of Kang Song Hwa, general manageress of the Kanggye Knitwear Factory in Kanggye City. The audience was amazed to see her family of 26 children appearing on the stage. What was more surprising was the fact that all the children were graduates of a middle school for orphans.

Many people often ask the manageress how she could take care of such a number of children, not just a few. Then she replies, "I've done nothing special for them. They owe their development to the socialist system of our country in which all people create a happy life while helping and leading one another."

During my recent visit to the factory Kim Yong Sim, a workteam leader of the finishing workshop, said, "My mother is busy with her work, but she always thinks of how to help us enjoy our life as well as others." Then she told me the following story.

One autumn day in 2006, not long after Kang had been appointed as general manageress of the factory, she was busy acquainting herself with the situation of its operation as a whole. While looking round a workshop she was informed that students of the then Kanggye Orphans' Middle School came to the factory to give an artistic performance. Their performance was done successfully, greatly inspiring the workers to make further progress in production. Afterwards, the children often visited the factory.

When it was time for them to leave the school the manageress wanted to help them keep leading a happy life at her factory. So she went to see a senior official of the city and told him about her idea. Saying that it was a good idea but not an easy job, the official advised her to consider it again. Now she said, "I was born a fourth daughter of an ordinary worker's family. Under the care of the country I graduated from school before beginning to work at the knitwear factory. I was promoted from a machine operator to a workteam leader, a technical instructor and then a workshop leader. In the course of this I finished the study-while-working course of the Kanggye University of Technology. Now I've become the general manageress of the factory. This inspires me to do more things for the sake of society and the collective." Later 15 of the graduates of the orphans' middle school were assigned to the factory.

General Manageress Kang Song Hwa *(fourth left).*



Kang, however, found it not easy for her to take care of them. Everyday she was busy dealing with all sorts of affairs of the factory, but she never failed to show concern for them. Whenever she had spare time during the day she would go to their workplaces to teach them how to operate machines or have a technical study session organized for them to improve their technical skills as soon as possible. In the evening she stayed at their hostel looking after their life. Whenever seasons changed she would stay awake all night trying to prepare clothes for them all at a time. And when she obtained special food she took it to them first. Whenever she came back from a business trip, she would bring necessities of life to them. She was really a warmhearted mother to them.

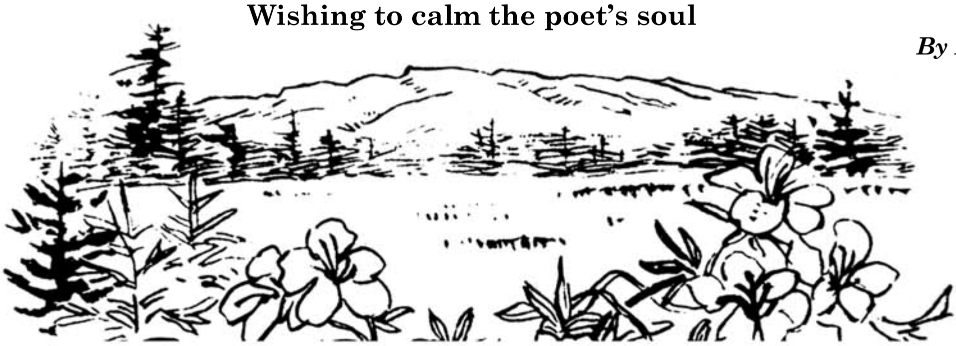
She, however, did not connive at their mistakes. Yong Sim once made an error in operating her machine. When her workshop manager criticized her, she refused to admit her wrong and said she would move to another factory. Having heard of this Kang reproached her, saying, "What are you complaining about? Do you think you will be able to make a career if you leave this family of people who have grown up under the warm care of the [Workers' ►

Short Story

Spring

Wishing to calm the poet's soul

By Ri Myong



1

OK RA HYON FOUND the patient lying motionless, over half his face covered with a piece of whitish bedclothes in the dimly lit room. He was in comma, the face pale, the pulsation faint and the fever high.

"I know I don't have to keep nothing secret.... He's bled too much after a bullet pierced through his thigh," murmured the old carter, holding a small dish of thin rice gruel. He had been waiting on the patient. "Bullet?" Ok Ra Hyon, director of Jahye Hospital, echoed unintentionally while unwinding a scrap around the patient's right thigh.

"Yesterday night," the old man said, "he saved a lot of people on the verge of hell in the secret construction site under the Japanese control. Then he was shot by a Jap." He was struck dumb with anger. His words came as a shock for Ra Hyon. Now she could understand what was the gloomy sense of foreboding she had had and why the old man had positively called her. Earlier in the morning she had heard the "special crime" from U Sang Gi, a detective.

Ra Hyon was rather suspicious when Sang Gi came to see her in her hospital in the early morning. He had never been there so early though he was a regular case. He used to be a gentleman with clean clothes on, wearing a dark blue woolen suit, a soft hat and nice sheepskin shoes, but now he looked tired with an exhausted face.

"Miss Ok, could you please examine my eyes?" said Sang Gi with his big eyes inflamed. "It seems I have got hemorrhage in my eyes." Ra Hyon found his big eyes blood shot. She took him into the clinic and examined them for a good while.

"Your eye capillaries are a little ruptured," she said. "Maybe you've worked too hard. Please drop eye lotion into your eyes and have a rest for a few days, and it'll be Okay."

"Rest? Oh no... it's impossible."

"Are you so busy?" Ra Hyon asked. She was always on frank terms with him as he had been her classmate when they went to private school.

Sang Gi would not open his mouth, with his face cast with a shadow as though he had something unpleasant in his mind. For a while he said nothing. Only after ►

► Party of Korea]? Go if you really mean it. I don't want a child like you." Then the mother went upstairs to her office. The image of her in anger made the girl regret her act. Yong Sim followed to the office, where she found Kang tearful. She flung herself into her arms, bursting into tears.

The mother's sincere concern for the children never faded though they got on in years. When each of them was to be married she, with the help of the factory's employees and officials of the city, prepared for him or her not only wedding dress but also household articles, furniture and even kitchen utensils. And when her children had a child she prepared clothes, quilts and even diapers for the baby.

Last year nine of her children got married under her blessing. Her loving care for them knew no bound.

The children she adopted and brought up for over ten years number more than 80, and they sincerely hold in respect their mother, who is a deputy to the Jagang Provincial People's Assembly and a merited person in the Songun era.

Kim Myong Sim

a nurse got out of the room, he whispered to her, "There happened a special incident last night. A Japanese garrison was annihilated by bandits in a sudden strike. According to the information, the head of the bandit group was seriously wounded and he hasn't yet escaped from our district. Miss Ok, it's quite probable that he would ask you for help."

"Shut up, please," she blurted in surprise.

Sang Gi continued with his words while eyeing her in a patient yet sharp manner.

"It's not only my argument. Last night we got information of not only big and small private hospitals but also pharmacies, doctors, and even charlatans in the town. Jahye Hospital is under my control. If you show any sympathy for the crime in this emergency situation…."

Then he stopped short. Now Ra Hyon perceived that he was not at the hospital for the treatment of his eyes alone. His words meant a certain threat to her for the seriousness of the situation, and also his care for her protection. Ra Hyon was feeling that he had uncommon emotion towards her.

Ra Hyon was at a loss what to do with the patient who was in a comma due to hemorrhage. She was suffering from the hallucination as if the police were pouncing on her.

"Please! Save his life, Miss," begged the old man. Ra Hyon shivered. She thought: How is it that the old carter who spared no pains all his life could make such a heart-rending request? Is it because the patient saved a lot of innocent people? Indeed, even bandits, who kill people without hesitation for valuables, sometimes surprise the world with their righteous behaviour. Anyhow I have to give him the first aid. According to the wound, his bones are alright.

Returning to her sense of duty, she deftly sterilized and inserted a wick in his wound which was already infected with reddish tinges. She decided she had no time to delay in the cottage. She hurriedly got out as soon as she finished treatment.

She hardly slept that night. Only near to dawn she lapsed into sleep, but wet her bed with sweat as she had a nightmare. All of a sudden she hit upon an idea.

"Alas, how could I forget it? I should have told the old man to apply a cold compress on the wound so as to check further infection. Possibly he could fill cold water into a rubber bag and apply it."

All day she was unhappy that she had kept her fear ahead of the serious wound. She could hardly rid herself of the idea, working busily in the hospital.

It was getting dark, and there were few patients after she allowed the nurse to return home. Ra Hyon was sitting alone to have a rest in an empty room. The reddish evening glow streamed in through the window and dyed the front wall red. A scroll was hanging there on which her father had written with a stroke of brush.

"Medicine is charity!"

Her father majored in medical science while worshipping Christianity, when he was young. He did not believe in existence of God but religious doctrine. He said that the bible was an encyclopedia of human culture. He established a hospital named *Jahye* with the meaning of love and benevolence for poor people. Two years before he had died after he gave up the hospital to his daughter who was on the eve of graduation from Severance Medical School.

Ra Hyon believed that a doctor should look after any patients, rich or poor, devoting selfless mercy, medical skill and sincerity with clear conscience. However, she faced the reality in which she found it difficult to keep her principle.

A man in a critical condition who committed the special crime is asking for my help. How can I deal with the case? Crime is different from life. Crime is an affair that concerns such people as Sang Gi. Different people have different duties before society and conscience, so I, as a doctor, have a professional duty to take care of lives in general.

Having come to these points, Ra Hyon knew why she had been lost into embarrassment. She would no longer give up her principle.

She had to visit the patient who was on the verge of death. She thought that Sang Gi would help her if she fell into an undesirable situation. Finally she decided to visit the patient after she wavered between her conscience and actual reality. Struggling to avoid thinking what would become of her, she got to the hut outside the town.

The patient was still unconscious. Sometimes he gave out an imperceptible moan. Ra Hyon smoothed up his tangled hair stuck to his forehead with sweat. Suddenly she was surprised to see his face—it looked so familiar. The protruding forehead, the straight nose, the thick, cracked lips, the wan face with a stump mustache. She dropped the tweezers to the floor. She was stifled with unexpected happiness and sadness.

(To be continued)

National Intangible Cultural Heritage (10)

Ssirum

SSIRUM IS BOTH A national sport and a folk game of Korea. As a type of wrestling, it can be played by anyone in any place at any time. It helps cultivate perseverance, fighting spirit and great strength through different kinds of techniques and methods. For this merit, they enjoyed the sport at the edge of the field, on the grass, and in the sand beaches along the river and sea during a break of work. On folk holidays *ssirum* matches took place at scenic spots by different age groups ranging from children to grownups.

Ssirum took shape during the time of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668). At that time they wore a uniform thigh band and shorts and had a match in compliance with the umpire's instruction and supervision. Murals in the *Ssirum* Tomb (dating back to the late 4th century) and Jangchon Tomb No. 1, which are both Koguryo's relics found in Jian, Jilin Province, China, have vivid scenes of two muscular men wearing a thigh band and same shorts on the bare body and contending for strength with a firm grip of each other's band. Next to the two wrestlers stands an old umpire with a grey hair lock, who, holding a stick in his hand, seems to be watching the entire process of the match and estimating the result.

Ssirum took place with a greater participation as a popular sport during the periods of Koryo (918–1392) and the feudal Joson dynasty (1392–1910). Pyongyang was famous for *ssirum* competitions that took place in the yard of the Yongmyong Temple on Moran Hill and in the open land outside the South Gate of the Inner Fort.

Some ancient records introduce *ssirum* competitions which attracted great public interest as well as different kinds of *ssirum* techniques. Korean wrestling appears to be simple, but as it is based on the use of the thigh band it has multifarious features with the application of a lot of technical points and methods of connecting different techniques.

Ssirum techniques are largely divided into those tricks based on the use of hand, leg and body. And according to the ages and strength of the contenders competitions were divided into children, junior and senior classes.

The wrestling ground is usually laid in the middle of a yard, the floor spread with sand or covered with a mat.

Ssirum is helpful in improving the muscles in the arm and leg and the whole body at large, so it contributes to the physical training and improvement.

Now Korea annually arranges a Grand Bull prize national *ssirum* tournament on the occasion of *Chusok*, a folk holiday. The tournament offers opportunities to display diversified *ssirum* tactics and techniques, which are developing year by year.

Rim Ok



Eight Famous Scenes on Mt. Paektu (1)

LOCATED BETWEEN THE EXPANSIVE Asian continent and the Pacific Ocean, Mt. Paektu magnificently stands 2 750 metres high on the Paektu Lava Plateau, 1 950 metres above sea level, on the northern borderline of Korea. The natural spectacles in Mt. Paektu are largely related to the physiographical features like volcanic activities of the mountain and the related climate conditions. The mountain body took shape after a lava plateau came into existence in the late tertiary-early quaternary of the Cenozoic era (nearly 3.8-2.2 million years ago). The present mountain was formed some 500 000 years ago. With large and small volcanic eruptions, the crater came, which was later filled with water. Around 1 000 years ago the volcano erupted for the last time, leaving a lot of pumice. The foundation of the mountain consists of different strata of rocks and is covered with a stratum of white pumice. So, when you see the mountain from afar, it looks capped with snow.

The Korean people counted the local scenic wonders, which represent the magnificent, miraculous and superb qualities of nature, as paramount of all series of Eight Scenic Wonders in Korea. For this Mt. Paektu is seen as the first of the Six Famous Mountains of Korea. There are a lot of poems and legendary tales about its boasts.

Recently the beautiful scenes of Mt. Paektu have been consummated as Eight Famous Scenes on Mt. Paektu, bringing its superb natural attractions into bold relief.

Sunrise on Mt. Paektu

What is of paramount importance in the Eight Famous Scenes on Mt. Paektu is the sun rising over the mountain. After driving away the darkness early in the morning, it rises brilliantly and dyes the whole world red.

Sunrise is a natural phenomenon which is to be seen everywhere in the world as the earth turns round the sun in its orbit. Yet it is not of the same scenic value in all places.

The higher you stand on the earth, the earlier you can see the sun rise, enjoying its magnificence and brilliance. The earliest moment of the sunrise on Mt. Paektu around the year comes at 05: 03 a.m. When all other mountains are still in darkness, the clusters of stars disappear slowly from the sky over the Paektu, when the first rays of the grand sun appear in the horizon like the point of the needle. Then the rays become larger and larger to dye the eastern sky red over the vast expanse of forests and reach the peaks of the mountain. Presently, the furiously ▶





Sunrise on Mt. Paektu.

► burning sun comes up through a sea of cloud and shines light on the ancestral mountain as a whole, illustrating the majestic features which have been formed through millions of years.

The sunrise on the mountain feels different in different seasons and weathers, and it is also varying according to your position, thought and sentiments.

Chairman Kim Jong Il said that he always loved the sunrise on Mt. Paektu, that the emotions and charm emanating from it represent the most miraculous, graceful and magnificent qualities of nature, and that he felt as if seeing the victory of the revolution when he enjoyed the sunrise on the mountain.

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un instructed that they should keep as red and strong a faith as the sunrise on Mt. Paektu if they were to follow the long and arduous way of the revolution to the end.

Pak Thae Ho



Historical Relics in Kaesong (2)

Manwoltae

MANWOLTAE IS THE SITE OF THE royal palace of Koryo dynasty (918–1392) in Songak-dong, Kaesong. The palace, erected in 919, had some characteristics in architecture.

It was magnificent and imposing with a total area of 1.25 million square metres. The royal district alone occupied 390 000 square metres. Both the government district and the royal district were imposing—each had four main gates to the four cardinal directions and several minor gates inbetween. Typically Sinbong Gate of the royal district, consisting of two storeys, was a big gate with three passages. It is said that the king and government officials used the gatehouse to see polo games, religious functions and lantern festivals, and inspect military troops.

The central group of buildings in Manwoltae was placed on a spectacular embankment. It looks soaring overwhelmingly as it has 33 stone stairs constructed precipitously.

It is to be easily understood how magnificent the royal palace was when the roofing tiles are studied. At that time green tiles were transported by oxen from the southern coastal areas—400 kilometres away from Kaesong—for the construction of the royal palace.

The site is also characterized by the fact that the structure of the royal palace and the layout of major buildings in it retain strong cultural influence from Koguryo. The structure of the palace bears a close resemblance to those of Koguryo. The Walled City of Pyongyang, capital of Koguryo, consisted of inner, central and outer forts. The inner fort belonged to the royal district, the central to the government district and the outer to residential quarters. The division of Koryo's royal palace into the royal and the government district was part of the heritage of Koguryo's culture. So was the layout of the major buildings. The Anhak Palace, Koguryo's royal palace, had the central architectural group in its centre, and palace buildings were found in the west and east. The site of Manwoltae had a similar layout. Buildings in the Anhak Palace were arranged in the cross shape, and the major buildings in Manwoltae were of the same layout.

On June 23, 2013 Manwoltae was registered in the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage as it is valuable cultural heritage that shows the Korean people's creative wisdom and talent.

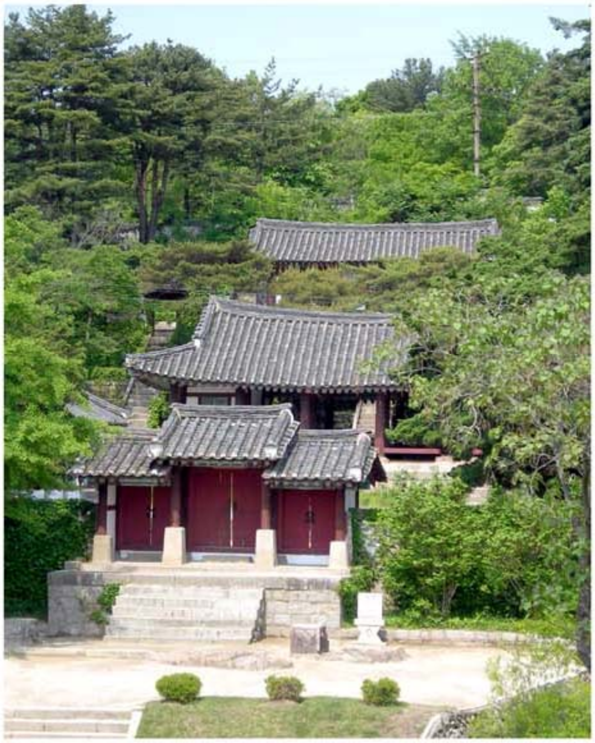
Sungyang School

Located in Sonjuk-dong, Kaesong, the Sungyang School is a leftover from the feudal Joson dynasty (1392–1910). It was established on the site of the house of Jong Mong Ju (1337–1392), a high-ranking official of Koryo. The present building was rebuilt in ►



Manwoltae.





Sungyang School.

► 1573. It was called Munchung Hall before it was renamed Sungyang School in 1575. Against the background of Mt. Janam, its buildings stand symmetrically on the southeastern slope of the mountain. Just enter the yard, and you will find dormitories of students—Tongjae and Sojae facing each other—and a lecture hall linked with them. The lecture hall is 12.79 metres in width and 6.96 metres in length with a hip-saddle roof. Pass the lecture hall, and you will see a shrine, which is located on a higher terrace. It is 9.43 metres in width and 4.83 metres in length with a gable roof. It was used to hold a memorial service for high-ranking officials of Koryo including Jong Mong Ju and Kaesong-born figures like So Kyong Dok (1489–1546) and Kim Yuk (1580–1658) who were famous scholars during the feudal Joson dynasty. Along with education, it was also used to propagate Confucian ideas by putting forward eminent Confucian scholars.

The school was awfully destroyed by the US imperialists during the Korean war but later restored to the original state.

On June 23, 2013 the Sungyang School was registered in the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage as it is a valuable cultural relic of historical interest preserving a typical style of school building arrangement and architectural structures.

Nam Gate of Kaesong

Located in Pugan-dong, Kaesong, the gate was erected between 1391 and 1393 and repaired in 1899. Burnt down due to the US imperialists' barbarous bombing in December 1950 during the Korean war, it was restored to the original state in 1954. It consists of an embankment, which was piled up methodically with rectangular granite blocks, and a gatehouse built on it. In the middle of the embankment there is an arched gateway which was constructed by putting big stones on both basements and then piling smaller stones in a half circle like a fan. The battlement rims the top of the embankment, whose four corners are outlets for rainwater.

The gatehouse is 13.63 metres in width and 7.96 metres in length. Supported by wooden pillars based on stone ones, it is painted gorgeously in red and blue with a hip-saddle roof.

In the gatehouse hangs the Bell of the Yonbok Temple. Decorations on its outer surface are elegant and graceful, and its ringing sound is so beautiful and clear that it can be heard even over 40 kilometres away, it is said. The copper-alloy bell is one of the five famous bells of Korea, and testifies to the high metal casting and toreutic art of Koryo.

On June 23, 2013 it was registered in the UNESCO list of world cultural heritage as it is a valuable historical relic representing a high level of architecture of Korea.

Kim Yu Jin

Nam Gate.



Koguryo's Advanced Technology

KOGURYO, THE FIRST feudal state of Korea, made a rapid progress in productivity relying on the advanced socio-economic system. An important aspect of the progress reflected a remarkable technological stride.

Most striking was the metallurgical and metalworking technology. Koguryo turned out as much ironwork as to be exported. A number of historical relics and remains tell that in its early years the country obtained steel in the complete melting state at the temperature of 1 540ºC.

The merits of Koguryo's metal-processing techniques are to be seen in precision castings of intricate patterns, the carving on the metal surface with different kinds of chisels, and various sorts of artefacts whose gilding is still intact although they have been buried in earth for a thousand and hundreds of years. Koguryo people skilfully rolled steel, which was believed to be difficult at the time. Using steel pieces rolled two millimetres thick, they made a lot of coats of iron mails and helmets to clothe people and even horses. Cavalrymen and horses clad thoroughly with mails were usually called *Cholgi*, or armoured cavalry. Koguryo mobilized as many as 5 000 armoured cavalrymen in the war against foreign invaders in 246.

Fusing two metal things together is still a task, but the Koguryo people knew how to do it a thousand and hundreds of years ago and used it to make arrowheads and other things.

Koguryo also had a high architectural technology, which is to be verified in remains of the royal palaces, Buddhist temples, fortresses, bridges, tombs and other kinds. The Anhak Palace and the Taedonggang Wooden Bridge belong to typical national cultural heritage that displays the Koguryo people's technology of wooden architecture. Dating back to the 5th-6th century the Anhak Palace used to occupy a total area of nearly 380 000 square metres. It had magnificent wooden buildings whose total floor space amounted to 31 458 square metres. The Taedonggang Wooden Bridge, about 375 metres long and some nine metres wide, was one of the oldest and largest bridges in the world, which was rare to be seen at that time. For the constitution of the skeleton of the bridge they used thick, square timber which was eight to ten metres long, 38 centimetres wide and 26 centimetres thick for each piece. No iron things like nails or dog anchors were used to join the wooden parts, which were all connected strongly by dovetailing all the joints.

The architectural technology of Koguryo is to be seen in more than 1 000 fortresses erected in plain and mountain areas to defend the country.

Koguryo also developed textile and dyeing techniques to a considerably high level. In the Mt. Taesong area in Pyongyang there was unearthed a piece of silk cloth whose thread and surface are admirably smooth, and in Jian, China a piece of elaborate silk cloth with a flower pattern on it. This is eloquent proof of the level of the weaving technology of Koguryo.

Koguryo people dyed cloth or printed patterns on it using fine techniques, and wore clothes made to suit the national taste. To say nothing of the aristocrats, even commoners wore clothes of different colours and patterns. This is to be seen in tomb murals, which give a good hint at the development of Koguryo's dyeing technology.

Pottery, weaponry, navigation and other fields also reached a high level of technological development for the time.

The advanced technology of Koguryo led to technological progress in brother states like Paekje and Silla and neighbouring countries during the time of Three Kingdoms. And its influence lived long in later years.

Sim Chol Yong

Hostile Policy Ends up in Failure

RECENTLY, COMMENTING on the fierce DPRK-US confrontation, the world media and experts asserted that the policy Trump has pursued towards the DPRK boomeranged and that if the US commits another provocation in future, that confrontation will be ended in the DPRK's victory, too. The media in the Western countries including Germany and Spain reported that the Trump administration has been defeated in the politico-military confrontation with the DPRK, thus getting into a scrape.

The new American government is suffering disgrace and defeat in the confrontation with Pyongyang from the start because of its absurd DPRK policy. It sharply criticized Obama's DPRK policy of "strategic patience" as failure. Having racked their brains to make options for solution of the "nuclear programme of north Korea" for months it announced the four-point keynote policy as follow-up to its north Korea policy, which is to be characterized by "maximum pressure and engagement." The four-point keynote policy is that the US will not recognize the DPRK as a nuclear state, scale up all sanctions and pressure, seek "no regime change in north Korea," and finally settle issues through dialogue.

The keynote policy the US came up with is just the repeat of the preceding administrations' polices, fully revealing the limit of the Trump administration's intellectual faculty and narrow vision.

The first point of the policy that the US will not recognize the DPRK as a nuclear state is infeasible and impracticable for no scientific calculation. The DPRK has attained nukes not because it wanted any acknowledgement. It withdrew from the International Atomic Energy Agency according to its independent decision and secured the self-defensive nuclear deterrent in view of the vital requirement to safeguard its dignity and the right to live. In conclusion, the US pushed Korea to become a nuclear state, and there is no legal basis of the international law to find fault with Korea's nuclear possession.

What is clear now is that the DPRK's abandonment of nuclear weapons is the last thing to happen and that its strategic position is unassailable. While the US is spending time playing with words about "instability," the DPRK is steadily stepping up the diversification and upgrading of its nuclear force. Voices are rising even in the US about the story that Korea will have had more than 100 nuclear weapons by 2020 if it goes ahead at the present speed. The fact that the US, neglecting such a historic reality, denies the DPRK's nukes is interpreted as no more than self-deception and self-consolation. It proves that it is incapable of making the DPRK give up nuclear weapons.

The second item of the keynote policy is that the US will scale up all sanctions and pressure. This is another version of the sanctions and pressure card that the preceding administrations, obsessed with anachronism and expansive delusion, had pursued only to fail to attain. However, the swollen-headed Trump administration is hurling huge armed forces into the Korean peninsula and its vicinity and applies military pressure and high-intensity sanctions to bring the DPRK to submission. An American commentator on politico-military affairs said that dispatching two nuclear-powered carrier-based strike forces and over 100 F-16 fighters and F-35 stealth fighters to the Korean peninsula and its vicinity for drills reminds him of the eve of the Gulf War in 1991, and that the Trump administration's discussion on the matters of the civil defence measures and anti-terrorism in Guam shows the imminence of the "pre-emptive nuclear strike against north Korea."

Now the US is brandishing the "diplomatic punishment plan" forcing all countries to break diplomatic relations with the DPRK or lower the level of diplomatic relations. Meanwhile, Trump himself bustled about the Southeast Asian and European countries to urge them to join the anti-DPRK front for diplomatic pressure. Along with this, the US is placing a closely-knit net of sanctions in the border, sea and monetary circulation channels around the world lest even a gram of fuel and even a penny would flow into Korea. It is threatening and blackmailing other countries, using the programme of the "secondary boycott" aiming to impose sanctions on enterprises of the third countries that are dealing with the DPRK.

The reality, however, is not in favour of the US. The "American dream" which had been representative of the paradise of liberty and prosperity was already broken long ago, and the US is in the hell of chronic financial distress and severe gap between the rich and the poor, its national treasury going dry owing to crazy wars of aggression. On the contrary, the more the enemy's sanctions grow in intensity, the stronger the DPRK gets in direct proportion to it, and the greater pressure is put, the higher the country springs up. The military power of Korea centring on the nuclear forces is threatening the US proper while mercilessly frustrating the military moves for war, and the economy of the country is making headway at the speed of Mallima ►

► by dint of its own national resources and technology. The American campaign of "sanctions and pressure," which is an expression of its self-complacency and ignorance about its counterpart, is now bringing ruin to the Americans.

Earlier some of the high-profile figures of the current administration requested the DPRK to believe it when they said they would seek no change of government. And this became the third of the four points of the recent American policy towards the DPRK. To make the argument sound credible, the US should stop being hostile to the DPRK's socialist system, show the attitude of admitting and tolerating it, and discontinue joint military exercises involving nuclear-powered carrier-based strike forces and special forces. At this very moment, however, US commandos sharpen the sword of provocation against the DPRK allegedly for "beheading operation," while the CIA, the den of all evils, has formed a special group for removing the supreme leadership and is hell-bent on breeding plots to carry out state-sponsored terrorism using bio-chemical substances. Consequently, the argument for no change of government in the DPRK is nothing but the Americans' awkward deception. Putting the matter of whether to invade a sovereign state or change its government in the keynote policy openly is nothing but a clearer demonstration of the US's arrogance and high-handedness.

The morbid hatred against and deep-rooted denial of the DPRK's socialist system are the malignant, incurable disease of the US imperialism. The reason why the US is making an issue of Korea's nuclear possession alone when it is conniving at other countries' nuclear possession is that the socialist Korea is the bulwark of independence against the US. When the US advocacy for exclusion of change of government is inverted, it means that if Pyongyang does not give up the nuclear programme, the US would launch aggression and even pursue an overthrow of system unhesitatingly. Such high-handed threat and blackmail can evidently have no effect on the DPRK which is possessed of powerful weapons and nuclear striking means of the Korean make that can bring tremble, terror and death to the aggressors who try to harm Korea's sovereignty and system.

The US argument for settlement of issues through dialogue, the last of the four points in the keynote policy, is a revelation of the dilemma of the current US administration. US high-ranking officials tell media one after another that they would lead the DPRK to dialogue and keep the door of negotiation open while urging Pyongyang to take a reasonable option of coming to the negotiating table for denuclearization. By this they are trying to impress the world that they are "interested in dialogue." Their cry for dialogue is a palpable lie—just like a honey tongue, a heart of gall. What the Americans are seeking underhand is to bring the DPRK to its knees with the imposition of maximum pressure and sanctions according to the principle of pressure first and negotiations next, force it out to the negotiating table and make it surrender.

This is clear from the fact that coming out of the White House, the US Department of State and Congress are such remarks that the precondition for dialogue is "north Korea's change" of attitude, that to this end the US should put pressure in cooperation with the international community at present and that Trump himself is telling south Korea not to make haste for dialogue but cooperate with the US in the effort to pressurize Pyongyang since it is time to maintain pressure and sanctions.

Over the past decades the DPRK and the US had all kinds of open and closed negotiations. In the course of this different agreements and statements were adopted with difficulty between the two sides. Typical of them were the DPRK-USA joint statement in June 1993, the DPRK-USA Agreed Framework in October 1994, the DPRK-USA joint communiqué in October 2000, the September 19 joint statement in 2005, and the February 13 agreement in 2007. But the tragedy is that none of them has been implemented so far. The reason is that the US abused the negotiating table as means of threatening and blackmailing its counterpart, and as the leverage to have it open its fist with empty talks.

It is the standpoint of the DPRK that as long as the US views dialogue as extension of pressure, deludes itself that the DPRK's nukes are something for bargaining and refuses to withdraw the dagger hidden under the coat, there could hardly be communication between the human being and the beast even if they held dialogue.

The keynote policy sounds like the scream that the US's strategy of world supremacy has failed owing to the DPRK's nukes, a powerful sword of safeguarding peace, and that its own destiny is exposed to danger. At the moment US politicians and experts in the DPRK affairs are warning that the inconsistent and unpredictable policy of the Trump administration is likely to cause an unimaginable disaster.

Last May the DPRK succeeded in the test-fire of the ground-to-ground intermediate-range strategic ballistic rocket Hwasong 12, which was followed by the successful test launch of ICBM Hwasong 14 in July. This boosted the country's comprehensive power and strategic status up to a higher phase, while graphically illustrating the complete failure of the American policy towards the DPRK.

Kim Yong Un

Japan's Sinister Intention of Fanning up the US War Fever

JAPAN IS NOW ADDING fuel to the US's reckless moves for war in the Korean peninsula, thus aggravating the situation in the region to extremes. From the outset of this year the Japanese reactionaries including the present ruler, availing themselves of all occasions like the telephone dialogue and talks with the US President, the American vice president's visit to Japan, and the three-party negotiation of the US, south Korea and Japan held in Tokyo, argued for raising the intensity of pressure against the DPRK, finding fault with the latter's nuclear programme and launch of rockets which it described as a grave "threat" to the global peace and security.

In March and April last, the United States conducted the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle 17 joint military exercises in south Korea, all-out nuclear war drills against the DPRK which were unprecedented in scale, intensity and mode of execution, and came out with the idea of "military option" and "pre-emptive" strike. Quite pleased, Japan "welcomed" the US frenzy for war, and its politicians including the Defence Minister asserted the "dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces" for the "rescue of the Japanese" in south Korea, overtly revealing their scheme of reinvading the Korean peninsula. Actually, the insular nation waged joint naval exercises with the US nuclear-powered carrier-based strike force which had been headed for the Korean peninsula, and US-Japan aerial exercises as well as joint military drills with the US, the UK and France, thus accelerating preparations to join the US-led allied forces in case of a contingency in the peninsula.

Nowadays the Japanese authorities, by mobilizing the government-patronized media, are widely spreading the opinion that it would suffer the most damage if a war breaks out in the Korean peninsula, frantically creating a wartime atmosphere and warphobia in the country. When the US carried out an indiscriminate pre-emptive strikes against Syria for the absurd charge of Syria's "use of chemical weapons," Japan supported it actively. And it further amplified the hostile atmosphere against the DPRK and feelings of crisis in the society, making a fuss that Korea could also turn to chemical weapons using missiles. The Japanese government made public the procedure of evacuation of citizens in case of the DPRK's "missile attack and large-scale terror" and conducted relevant exercises in the nationwide scale to "ward off calamity and critical situation." This was the first ever incident since the end of World War II, which was intended to arouse the fear that war is imminent.

Regarding the frantic campaign the world public opinion says that it is a "dirty move of low grade" and a reckless undertaking that has "harmful influence on peace and stability in the region" and demands that Japan refrain from its seditious scheme of overemphasizing "Korea's threat and uneasiness." Japan's sinister attempt to further expand the theory on Korea's "threat" and the "contingency in the Korean peninsula" is aimed at, first of all, seeking a "justification" for its scheme to make a military power of the country and realize its ambition for overseas aggression without fail.

In the past the Japanese imperialists, clamouring for the "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere," occupied Korea and many other Asian countries as its colony, plundered a huge amount of labour and material resources and committed extra-villainous inhuman crimes. And it is over 70 years since the Japanese imperialism was defeated in the war. However, the ambition of the militarist maniacs has never changed, rather it has revived frantically thanks to their descendents. Far from making apology and compensation for the crime-ridden past the ultra-right reactionary forces in Japan pay reverence to the war criminals as the souls of the "departed war heroes" and go so far as to be proud of their being descendents of the war dead, wishing to make a military power and achieve the "great cause" of overseas aggression that their ancestors had failed to fulfil.

The samurai descendents have sharpened the sword of reinvasion over the years, and their persistent ambition for a military power should no longer be overlooked. Today the Japanese authorities are resorting to revision of the present constitution. Japan's constitution is its supreme code of laws blocking the road to a military power and overseas aggression by stipulating the eternal abandonment of war based on mobilization of state power and the act of threat by force of arms, possession of no armed forces including land, naval and air forces and approval of no right of belligerency.

Nevertheless, the successive Japanese reactionaries have used every trick such as arbitrary "interpretation" of this "pacifist constitution" and enforced legitimate and administrative measures one after another contrary to the constitution, thus rushing to become a military power. Some of acts of violation of the constitution are: the Self-Defense Forces' possession of three services; adoption of the national security law which guarantees overseas dispatch of troops and armed intervention; massive increase in military expenditure; and devel- ►

opment of latest offensive weapons and equipment. They have all crumpled the "pacifist constitution" and reduced it to a dead document. There is no need to do something about such a nominal constitution, but a full revision of it to open up a gate to a military power is the principal target of the revision that the Japanese authorities are desperately resorting to.

In early May last, the present Japanese chief executive, marking the 70th anniversary of the enforcement of the constitution, uttered that he would have the constitution revised at any cost and put in force by 2020. This shows that the revision of the constitution, the "long-cherished" desire of the Japanese reactionaries, is getting into the final stage of countdown. Now the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, on the pretext of the DPRK's nuclear programme and launch of rockets, is asserting that they should get rid of the restriction of the "pacifist constitution" which bans retaliatory strike by the SDF. And MPs from ruling and opposition parties visited the US vyingly and vociferated that the latter should not rule out any choice of actions including a military attack against the DPRK. This is aimed at intentionally emphasizing the "crisis of the Korean peninsula" to justify the need to revise the constitution—and finally fulfil their scheme of becoming a military giant and overseas aggression.

Japan's backing of the US's war frenzy to lead the situation of the Korean peninsula to the brink of war is based on a crafty and fraudulent plan inherent to the country. In the 1950s when the Korean war broke out, Japan, taking it as a golden opportunity, turned the whole of its territory into a sortie base, a supply base and a logistics base of the US military, and made a colossal sum of money through munitions orders and logistic support—it is a well-known fact. With that profit it achieved a high rate of growth.

As they cannot forget the "blessings of prosperity," the Japanese reactionaries are looking forward to a war in the Korean peninsula to repeat the history of aggression, their real intention. At the moment the Japanese economy is teetering on the brink of "lost three decades" after the "lost two decades." The fixed overproduction structure is constraining the reduced demand, blocking the business cycle and spreading the overall shrinkage in fund, equipment and labour, thus resulting in the stagnation of the whole domestic economy. The present cabinet, pursuing an absurd policy called Abenomics, is maintaining its existence with difficulty while making a desperate attempt to check the fall of stock prices by dint of the public fund and the [Central] Bank of Japan. Standing on the bubble economy which is likely to burst off at any moment, they are anxiously waiting for a mega event like war. Consequently, the reactionaries of Japan are seeking to escape from the economic crisis by means of a wartime boom like what happened during the Korean war.

In September last year the Japanese government revised an agreement for mutual providing of goods and labour with the US, and in mid-April last when the situation in the Korean peninsula was on the verge of war, the Diet finally approved the agreement. This is eloquent proof of Japan's evil intention, and it is natural that the world media comment that Japan is waiting for early outbreak of war in the Korean peninsula to get new munitions orders, and that it further wishes to stimulate its economy and restore it back to life.

Japan's frenzied claiming of the "crisis in the Korean peninsula" has another hidden aim: to direct the domestic attention to Korea to calm down the anti-Abe tendency and create a favourable condition for a long-term tenure. In October last year the Japanese ruler succeeded in expanding the term of the LDP president to three terms for nine years, thus he can remain in office until 2021. But there is dissatisfaction with Abe's "one-man rule" within the LDP, and opposition parties are waging a "joint struggle" against the Abe cabinet. The public rate of supporting the present regime is continuously falling down for some unstable factors revealed currently, typically the ruler's family relating to the scandal over the Moritomo kindergarten, an issue of re-installation of the US army base in Hutenma, a prolonged economic crisis, all sorts of uninterrupted labour disasters and social evil practices, and the delayed rehabilitation of earthquake-affected areas in Eastern Japan and Kumamoto.

Nervous about this development, the present ruler of Japan is scheming to prolong his stay in power by means of spreading the tendency of the Rightist deviation. To this end he is instigating social apprehension and seeking a closer tie-up with right-wing forces while making the most of his "forte of authority on security." The point of his undertaking is to push the Japanese public opinion to turn to the "theory on the crisis in the Korean peninsula." His long-term office does not simply mean the right-wing forces' maintenance of the power. It leads to the extension of the reactionary policies such as the revision of the constitution, turning into a military power, consolidation of the Japan-US military alliance and revitalization of the economy through war. Today the mass media of Japan and many other countries are expressing great apprehension, saying that the chief executive of Japan "is openly using the 'crisis in the Korean peninsula' in his domestic government."

All these facts are clearly proving that the Japanese reactionaries are fanning up the US's reckless moves for war against the DPRK to take it as a golden opportunity to make a military power and realize the dream of overseas aggression. Japan already underwent a bitter war, and its gamble for war against Korea, a military giant, will result in its irreversible, total ruin—this is a unanimous opinion of experts.

Kim Il Ryong

Pubyok Pavilion

THE PUBYOK PAVILION IS LOCATED ON Moran Hill in Pyongyang on the Taedong River. Built in 393 during the period of Koguryo (277 BC–AD 668), the first feudal state of Korea, it was called Yongmyong Pavilion as it was attached to the Yongmyong Temple. Early in the 12th century it was rebuilt and renamed Pubyok Pavilion to the effect that it seems to be floating over Chongnyu Cliff that is skirted by the crystal-clear and blue water.

It was burned down by the Japanese aggressors during the Imjin Patriotic War (1592–1598) and rebuilt in 1614. This existed until it was destroyed in the bombing of the US imperialists during the Korean war (June 1950–July 1953). Through repairs in 1956 and 1959, it was restored to the original state.

The pavilion is harmonious with the beautiful scenery of Moran Hill. Thus, *enjoying the full moon rising over the Pubyok Pavilion* was well known as one of the eight famous scenes in Pyongyang. Kim Hwang Won, a poet of Koryo which was a feudal state of Korea that existed from 918 to 1392, tried to compose a poem about the Pubyok Pavilion. When he had done a half of it he found it impossible for him to contain all the beautiful scenery around the pavilion in his poem, so he gave up his poem halfway lamenting his ability. The half poem goes as follows:

A river meanders along the long wall.
Hills are standing east of the plain.

The poem written on a panel is hung on a pillar of the Ryongwang Pavilion.

The Pubyok Pavilion is 14.58m wide and 7.68m long. It is a fascinating one with a hip-saddle roof supported by tapering pillars. It was used as a military commanding post, for it was a general's terrace of the North Fort of the Walled City of Pyongyang. During the Imjin war the volunteer army stationed in the pavilion launched a surprise attack against the enemy position under cover of pitch-dark night when swarms of enemy troops were wandering around unable to cross the Taedong River to attack Pyongyang. The army gave a critical blow to the enemy and achieved a great victory.

The Pubyok Pavilion is well preserved as it is not only a proud structure displaying the Korean nation's high architecture but also valuable national cultural heritage permeated with patriotism of the Koreans for national defence.

Kim Hyon Ju



